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Technology News

GIGABYTE & CYBERPOWER PARTNER TO OFFER INTEL WARRANTY PLAN

Intel's Performance Tuning Protection Plan ($20 to $35, depending on your processor) is an add-on warranty plan that provides overclockers with a one-time replacement of an Intel processor (whose title ends with a "K" or "X"), if you push the voltage too far and the CPU fails. GIGABYTE and CyberPower are now working together to offer the plan free to anyone who purchases a system configured with a GIGABYTE Z68 series motherboard and a supported Intel processor. GIGABYTE's new line of Z68 Series motherboard provide a redesigned VRM (voltage regulator module) that includes Dual Power Switching and Power Phase Boost technology that allows the CPU more efficient access to power.

CyberPower systems with GIGABYTE's new Z68 series motherboards come with Intel's Performance Tuning Protection Plan for free.

BEST BUY PURCHASES MINDSHIFT TECHNOLOGIES

mindSHIFT Technologies is an IT service provider that provides small and midsized businesses with cloud, virtual, and managed services. Best Buy recently purchased mindSHIFT Technologies with the idea of complementing its Geek Squad division, which covers mostly consumer-type services. mindSHIFT Technologies will continue to operate with its current name and capabilities, which include more than 5,400 clients and 25,000 managed desktops. Best Buy indicates that mindSHIFT will help capture a greater share of the $40 billion managed service provider market for small to midsized businesses.

Ultrabooks are notebooks that are less than 21mm thin, and the market for them is forecast to grow through 2016.

ULTRABOOK MARKET EXPECTED TO GROW

Juniper Research forecasts that Ultrabook (defined as notebooks that are 21mm thin or less, offer a battery life of five to eight hours, and feature an Intel Core Processor) shipments will grow at three times the rate of tablets over the course of the next five years. According to the Juniper Research report, Windows 8 will play a pivotal role in Ultrabook adoption, due to its extended battery life and always-on features. The Ultrabook market will also cannibalize much of the netbook market, as the report indicates that by 2016, netbook shipments will be a third of today's volume.

● Tablets are expected to become more popular in the near future.

TABLET SALES TO RISE

The NDP's DisplaySearch Tablet Quarterly report estimates that tablet sales will increase from 72.7 million units in 2011 to 383.3 million by 2017. Some of the key factors spurring growth include new opportunities in emerging markets, such as India and China, as well as improvements to the tablet platform, such as higher pixel densities and improved performance. NDP forecasts that emerging markets will account for 46% of worldwide shipments in 2017, which would be an increase from the 36% in 2011.

Worldwide Share of Smartphone App Sales Revenue by Percentage of Paid Apps vs. In-App Purchases

■ In-App Purchase ■ Paid Download
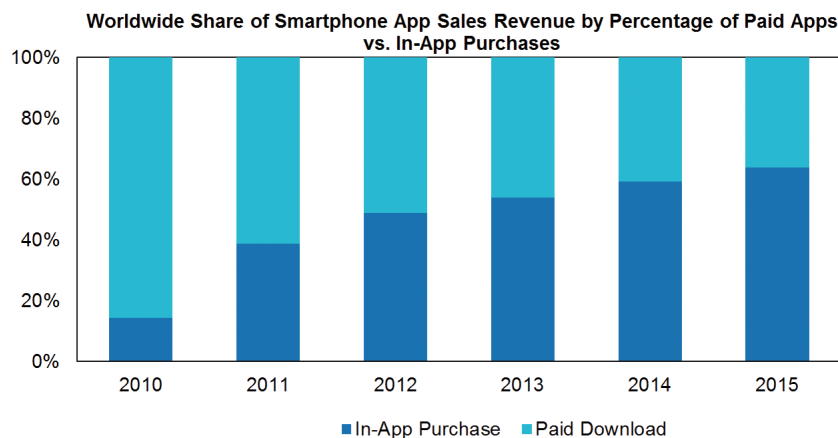
● In terms of total revenue, in-app purchases are expected to overcome paid downloads by 2014.

Source: IHS Screen Digest January 2012

IN-APP PURCHASES DOMINATE SMARTPHONE APP BUSINESS

If you're looking for the easiest way to make money on a smartphone app, consider creating a free app and offering in-app purchases. The IHS Screen Digest Mobile Media Intelligence Service found that 39% ($970 million) of the total market revenue from smartphone apps came from in-app purchases in 2011. The report also indicates that 96% of all smartphone apps that were downloaded in 2011 were free. By 2015, IHS estimates that 64% of the total market revenue for smartphones will come with in-app purchases, and it will account for $5.6 billion.

● A P P L E   I S   B A C K

The introduction of the iPhone 4S helped put Apple back into the top spot for the fourth quarter of 2011.

APPLE RETAKES SMARTPHONE LEAD

In the third quarter of 2011, Apple briefly lost its No. 1 rank in smartphone shipments to Samsung. The introduction of the iPhone 4S helped put Apple back into the top spot for the fourth quarter of 2011, according to a recent report from iSuppli. Apple experienced a 117% quarterly growth from the third quarter to the fourth quarter with a shipment of more than 37 million iPhones in Q4. In terms of overall smartphone shipments for 2011, Samsung (95 million shipments) topped Apple (93 million shipments).

Find And Manage Duplicate Photos

Finding Duplicate Files Is As Easy As 1, 2, 3!

You may be surprised the first time you run a duplicate photo scan on your computer. The average computer may have hundreds, even thousands, of duplicate images. There are many reasons this occurs.

For example, each time you transfer new photos over from your digital camera to your computer, duplicate photos from a previous transfer session may already be saved on that same computer in a different folder.

Duplicate photos on your computer wastes space, creates a longer backup process, and becomes time consuming when you go to look for a particular file. Easy Duplicate Finder will perform a thorough scan enabling you to find and manage duplicate photos. Periodic usage of Easy Duplicate Finder will keep your computer organized and if you currently pay for a backup service, may even save you money! Plus – Easy Duplicate Finder locates many other types of duplicate files, as shown in the list to the right.

Features include:

- Duplicate Photo Finder
- Duplicate Song Finder
- Duplicate Outlook Email Finder
- Duplicate Documents Finder
- Automated Scanning Wizard
- Comprehensive Reports
- Easy to Use Interface
- Duplicate Selection Manager

Easy Duplicate Finder works with:

Windows XP   Windows Vista   7

easyDuplicateFinder™

www.easyduplicatefinder.com/smartcomputing

Business News
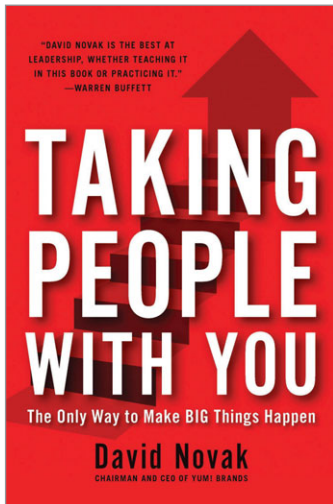
● David Novak's manual for being an effective leader is tempered by experience and continued success.

"TAKING PEOPLE WITH YOU"

In this book, David Novak, the successful CEO of Yum! Brands (KFC, Pizza Hut, Taco Bell, etc.), gives you specific and concise strategies for how to persuade people to go along with your ideas. According to Novak, it's not about reinventing yourself or thinking outside the box—it's about setting big goals, convincing people that they are achievable, and getting them to strive toward excellence. But Novak doesn't just give you a start, he helps you maintain that momentum so you can succeed again and again.

INNOVATION CAFE

Kansas City, Missouri's Innovation Cafe (www.icafekc.com) is the place to be for entrepreneurs, freelancers, and virtual agencies that work in software, design, marketing, legal services, architecture, engineering, and more. Innovation Cafe, located in the Crossroads Arts District, provides contemporary workspaces, Internet and utilities, conference rooms, and a full suite of business services. The founders describe Innovation Cafe as a destination for a creative community of professionals in Kansas City. Rates start at $99 per month on a part-time basis or $179 per month for a dedicated workspace.
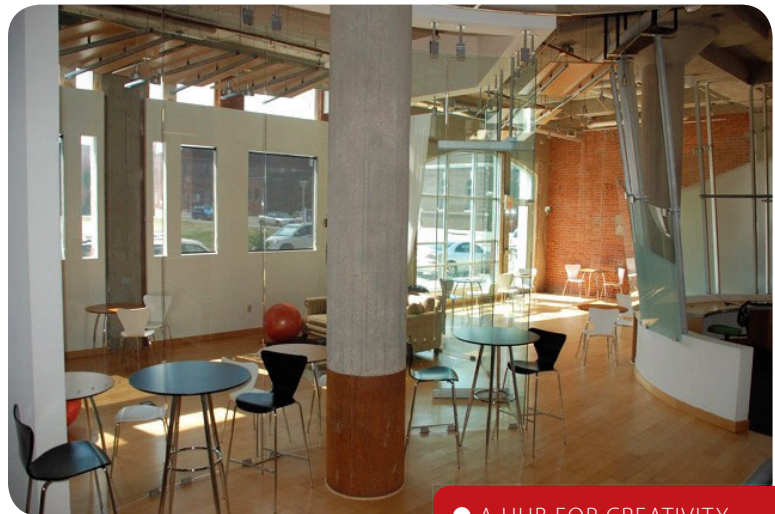
● A HUB FOR CREATIVITY

Innovation Cafe provides contemporary workspaces, Internet and utilities, conference rooms, and a full suite of business services.

WORKBAR BOSTON

Boston is a great town for small businesses, but if you're having trouble finding a quiet and affordable place to be productive, check out WorkBar. Freelancers, remote workers, small teams, and even startups call WorkBar home for everything work-related. Located right in the heart of Boston near the South Station train platform at 711 Atlantic Ave., WorkBar offers workspaces and conference rooms and multiple membership levels starting at $30 per day or $250 per month for a full-time membership. Amenities include wired and wireless Internet; printing/copying/faxing; free coffee, water, and snacks; and access to exclusive member events. For more information, email Evona@workbarboston.com.

Photo Courtesy of Melissa Blackall Photography

"BIG WAVE SURFING"

Kenneth J. Thurber has had his finger on the pulse of the technology industry since 1969. His experiences in building business models and products have provided him with a unique perspective on what works and what doesn't; it's all about surfing the technology big wave. In this book (www.bigwavesurfingbook.com), Thurber offers advice on how to harness the disruptive power of technology and practice extreme develop-ment, management, marketing, and investing that will deliver results in this highly volatile environment.

● Thurber teaches you how to hang ten in today's volatile business environment.

● According to Booz & Company, 2012 will see retailers shake up the customer experience. Walmart Express, for example, is a small-scale Walmart designed for urban centers and rural areas.

RETAIL FORMATS EVOLVE IN 2012

According to Booz & Company's 2012 Retail Industry Perspective report, this year will see a growing trend toward businesses, large and small, seeking alternatives to tradition-al retail formats. For instance, Walmart is attempting to expand into urban markets and low-population areas with scaled-down Walmart Express stores. Walgreens is beginning to offer fresh food. Some outlets like Sears and Target are shrinking their footprints and renting excess space to other businesses. Highlights of the report include a move toward tailoring offerings to reflect local tastes; more emphasis on social networking; and concerted efforts to improve the overall customer experience.

SMALL BUSINESS EVENTS

Small business events give you a chance to learn critical management skills and network with professionals in related fields. Don't miss these upcoming opportunities. If you would like to see your event here, email editor@smartcomputing.com with the subject Small Business Event.

INFUSIONCON 2012
Phoenix, Ariz. | April 2-4
2012.infusioncon.com

ACT-IAC 2012 SMALL BUSINESS CONFERENCE
Washington, D.C. | May 7
www.actgov.org

SMALL BUSINESS EXPO
New York, N.Y. | May 10
www.thesmallbusinessexpo.com

2ND ANNUAL SOUTHWESTERN VETERANS BUSINESS RESOURCE CENTER SMALL BUSINESS SUMMIT
Perris, Calif. | May 17
events.sba.gov

AMERICA'S SMALL BUSINESS SUMMIT
Washington, D.C. | May 21-23
www.uschambersummit.com

NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK
Washington, D.C. | May 20-26
www.nationalsmallbusinessweek.com

140 CHARACTERS CONFERENCE
New York City, N.Y. | June 15-16
nyc.140conf.com

WOMEN'S BUSINESS ENTERPRISE NATIONAL COUNCIL NATIONAL CONFERENCE & BUSINESS FAIR
Orlando, Fla. | June 19-21
www.wbenc.org

Small Business **Resources**

The Web has a trove of resources for SOHOs (small and home offices) and small businesses—if you know where to look. Find an association that can help you meet your goals; get information from the government about loans, grants, and taxes; and stay up-to-date with the best small business newsletters and blogs. If you have a pressing question, pose it on a forum to see what your peers have to say.

ASSOCIATIONS & SUPPORT

Better Business Bureau
www.bbb.org
(703) 276-0100
4200 Wilson Blvd.
STE 800
Arlington, VA 22203-1838

Main Street Alliance (MSA)
mainstreetalliance.org
info@mainstreetalliance
.org
(603) 831-1835
3518 S. Edmunds St.
Seattle, WA 98118

National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB)
www.nfib.com
(800) 634-2669
(615) 872-5800
53 Century Blvd.
STE 250
Nashville, TN 37214

National Small Business Association (NSBA)
nsba.biz
(202) 293-8830
1156 15th St., STE 1100
Washington, DC 20005

SCORE
www.score.org
(800) 634-0245
(703) 487-3612
1175 Herndon Pkwy
STE 900
Herndon, VA 20170

Small Business Development Centers Network (SBDCNET)
www.sbdcnet.org
(800) 689-1912
501 W. Durango Blvd.
San Antonio, TX 78207

BLOGS

Signal vs. Noise
37signals.com/svn/posts

Small Business Search Marketing
www.smallbusinesssem
.com

Small Biz Bee
smallbizbee.com

Small Business Trends
smallbiztrends.com

The Small Business Blog
www.sme-blog.com

The Entrepreneurial Mind
www.drjeffcornwall.com

FORUMS

Small Business Administration Community
www.sba.gov/community

The Small Business Community Forums
www.smallbusiness
forums.org

Small Business Ideas Forum
www.smallbusinessbrief
.com/forum

The Young Entrepreneur
www.youngentrepreneur
.com/forum

GOVERNMENT

Grants.gov

House Committee On Small Business
smallbusiness.house.gov

Small Business and Self-Employed Tax Center
www.irs.gov/businesses
/small

Small Business Administration (SBA)
sba.gov

U.S. Copyright Office
copyright.gov

U.S. Department of Labor
dol.gov

U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship
sbc.senate.gov

Small Business
Development Centers

Assistance For Entrepreneurs

Haven't the foggiest idea how to harness your entrepreneurial spirit, pull yourself anywhere using bootstraps, or think in or out of a box? Starting and running your own business is tough, but fortunately for prospective and current small business owners, SBDCs (Small Business Development Centers; asbdc-us.org) dispense with the clichés and offer training, counseling, and other assistance to help you craft your vision into a real-world success.

Run A Small Business

Pooling resources from federal, state, and local governments, as well as the private sector and the educational community, The Association of Small Business Development Centers is truly a joint venture with a vested interest in fostering small business growth. For an overview of what the SBDC can offer you and your small business, visit bit.ly /dKYe2a. The SBA (Small Business Administration; www.sba.gov) is partnered with SBDCs.

Help On Your Turf

You may be surprised to learn that there's probably an SBDC branch nearby; there are locations in all 50 states, in the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and even in the U.S. territories. There are 63 nationwide Lead Small Business Development Centers coordinating program services for every sub-center and satellite location in each state. Centers are made up of directors, full-time staff members, and various part-time staff and volunteers.

The best way to contact your nearest SBDC is to visit the Association of Small Business Development Centers' Web site (asbdc-us.org), input your ZIP code into the Find Your Nearest Small Business Development Center text box, and then click Go. The results page will highlight Lead Centers but rank centers in order of those closest to your location. Often, SBDCs partner with universities and colleges, and tend to be found on campuses across the country. On the search results page, you'll also find

Frequent Question

If you're like many other people starting a small business, funding is at the top of your mind. A common question that entrepreneurs have for SBDCs is: "Am I eligible for grant money?"

The answer depends on the nature of your business. Grants.gov (www.grants .gov) will give you a clear picture of your options before your visit to a Small Business Development Center.

a link to the local office's Web page, email address, phone number, a fax number if available, and address.

The Closest Thing To A Free Lunch

The services offered may vary by location, but all SBDCs offer many services free of charge. Some typical services you can expect from your nearest SBDC include help with financial, marketing, production, organization, engineering, and technical problems and access to feasibility studies that can flesh out a fledgling business plan. Some SBDCs also offer affordable training seminars to help with various aspects of running a business. You can also rest assured that your business with the SBDC will remain confidential.

Women's Business Centers

The SBA offers WBCs (Women's Business Centers), which directly serve female entrepreneurs through nearly 100 educational centers nationwide. This organization strives to assist women in overcoming the hurdles they face in today's business environment by offering business management training and technical assistance to all women, with a special emphasis on economically or socially disadvantaged women. The services and training programs are also commonly offered in multiple languages to enable those who speak English as a second language or are still learning English. To find your nearest WBC, visit bit.ly/hs3st2.

Small Business, Big Payoff

Small business owners know that achieving success is about taking risks, innovating, and making tough decisions day in and day out. Thanks to the services offered at the SBA, SBDCs, and WBCs, you're not on your own. ▮

When a computer breaks down, everyone looks to you for the solution.

That's why you look to *Smart Computing*. Each issue is packed with troubleshooting information that will help you spot the source of the problem and get your system humming again. Our plain-English tutorials and large, clear pictures give you the confidence and the knowledge you need when repairing an ailing PC. And once your computer is running again, *Smart Computing*'s software and hardware maintenance tips will help you keep it that way. Plus, you'll find info on all the new products you'll need for your home and office.

Never miss an issue again!

A **$29** subscription to *Smart Computing* includes 12 print issues and access to the online Digital Edition for a year.

ANOTHER PLUS: You can access past issues online. Benefit from the years of tech support advice archived on our Web site.

Making A Case For Versatility
Antec Three Hundred Two

With the wide variety of hardware and component form factors available today, designing a case to be versatile is no small task. Antec's highly configurable Antec Three Hundred Two has a muted front panel, making it suitable for gamers and SOHO users alike. On the practical side, Antec's case offers several advanced cooling features, tool-less 5.25- and 3.5-inch drive bays, a cable management compartment, a pair of front panel USB 3.0 ports, a removable air filter, and enough space for multiple high-end gaming or workstation graphics cards.

- Antec provides a quartet of cable routing holes in the motherboard tray to help you route and hide your wires.
- Two dedicated SSD mounts let you install plenty of fast storage.
- This case comes with a 120mm rear panel fan and a 140mm top panel fan.

A Cool CPU Is A Long-Lasting CPU
Enermax ETD-T60-VD

True, most computers you buy have a CPU cooler included, and nearly every processor you buy will come with a basic cooler. But if you demand a lot from your computer and processor, you can extend their lives by running a high-efficiency third-party cooler. This Enermax CPU cooler has six heat pipes that are soldered to the heat sink fins, and the whole thing is nickel-plated, which ensures quick heat transfer away from the CPU and no reduced efficiency over time due to oxidation. With the Auto-Adjustable-Pressure universal brackets, the ETD-T60-VD works with a wide range of Intel and AMD CPU sockets.

- This CPU cooler from Enermax employs Vortex Generator Flow technology to dramatically increase air convection.
- Vacuum Effect Flow technology ensures the most efficient airflow.
- Anti-vibration rubber grommets reduce fan vibration and keep the fan noise to a minimum.

A Notebook/Tablet/Desktop All In One

GIGABYTE Booktop T1132N 11.6-inch Multi-touch Tablet PC

If you find yourself unsure whether to buy a notebook, tablet, or desktop PC, then check out the GIGABYTE Booktop T1132N. This convertible notebook has a swiveling screen hinge so you can fold the capacitive multitouch display back over the keyboard and use it as a tablet PC. This unit also works with an innovative rotating docking station that lets you connect a secondary monitor and optical drive for use as a dual-screen desktop PC. And there's no limited-function tablet OS here; This unit comes with your choice of Windows 7 Home Premium or Professional.

- The Booktop T1132N supports SuperSpeed USB 3.0, which is up to 10 times faster than USB 2.0.
- With four dual-channel speakers and THX TruStudio Pro, this unit delivers an immersive music and movie experience.
- NVIDIA Optimus technology conserves battery life when unplugged, and boosts graphics performance when plugged in.

A Motherboard For Memory Hogs

Intel Desktop Board DX79TO

Intel's X79 platform is the only one you should consider if you can never have too much memory bandwidth. That said, the Intel Desktop Board DX79TO is one of the least expensive ways to get your hands on this cutting-edge technology. The DX79TO is a socket 2011 motherboard that supports Intel Core i7 Extreme Edition processors. Other features include SuperSpeed USB 3.0, 6Gbps SATA, support for AMD CrossfireX and NVIDIA SLI technology, and, of course, quad-channel DDR3 memory. A Gigabit LAN port provides fast networking, and the 3-year warranty provides you with peace of mind.

- Two PCI Express x16 slots, three PCI-E x1 slots, and a legacy PCI slot give you loads of expansion capabilities.
- This board is highly secure thanks to the built-in Intel Trusted Platform Module.
- The board also features eight DDR3-1600 slots and support for 64GB of SDRAM.

Low-Voltage Memory That's Really Green

Kingston 8GB HyperX LoVo DDR3-1600 KHX1600C9D3LK2/8GX

Fast memory is a necessity, but you can get DDR3-1600 memory from anywhere. Kingston's 8GB LoVo KHX1600C9D3LK2/8GX kit consists of a pair of 4GB DDR3-1600 Synchronous DRAM modules that operate at the peak speed using a low voltage setting of 1.35v. The latency settings of this kit running at DDR3-1600 are 9-9-9, but the memory will also support a second XMP setting of DDR3-1333 that operates at an even lower 1.25v.

- Without XMP enabled, the memory runs a JEDEC standard latency DDR3-1333 with timing of 9-9-9 and 1.5v.

- Each 240-pin DIMM uses gold contacts for low-resistance communication with the DIMM slots.

- The kit supports Intel XMP (Extreme Memory Profiles) for use in the latest dual-, triple-, and quad-channel systems.
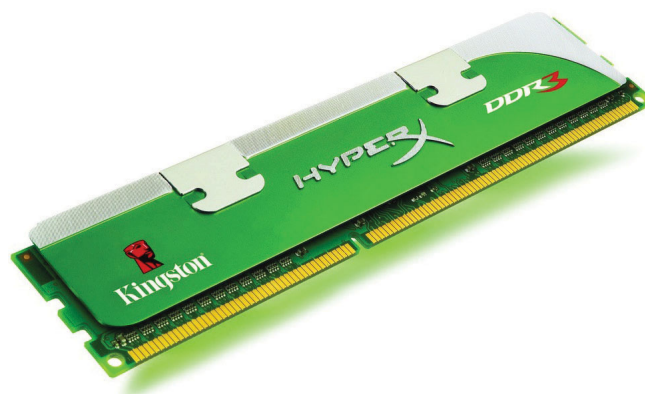
Modularity Cubed

Mountain Mods Pinnacle 24 CYO

Unlike most case manufacturers, Mountain Mods does not claim to know how big your motherboard is, how you'd like to orient your power supply, and how many expansion slots, fans, optical drives, hard drives, and windows you want. That's why they've created their CYO (Choose Your Own) computer cases, which let you choose from several panel options. Mountain Mods' Pinnacle 24 CYO is a full tower that measures 24 x 24 x 9 inches (HxWxD), and it features all aluminum panels and support for up to EATX (Extended Advanced Technology Extended) motherboards.

- You can get the Pinnacle 24 CYO in your choice of powder coat, anodized, or brushed finishes.

- The base configuration comes with a single HDD bay for three 3.5-inch drives and a single 5.25-inch bay that supports three drives.

- The case supports multiple removable 5.25-inch optical and storage drive cages.

A Powerful SSD For The Everyman
OCZ 128GB Petrol SATA III SSD

$129.99
www.ocztechnology.com

SSD doesn't have to be synonymous with expensive; OCZ's new Petrol Series SSDs are built to be an affordable solid-state storage option that provides you with the blistering fast speeds for which SSDs are known. Like the rest of the family, the 128GB Petrol SSD uses a 6Gbps SATA interface and leverages an Indilinx Everest controller capable of impressive bandwidth and access times. This SSD is optimized to deliver excellent response times with a variety of file sizes, and the controller's proprietary page-mapping algorithms deliver excellent mixed-workload performance.

- The Indilinx controller features latency reduction technology capable of 0.06ms read/write access times.

- The built-in NDurance technology lets the drive operate consistently and reliably.

- The SSD has an impressive 3-year warranty and 1.25 million-hour MTBF (mean time between failures) rate.

When Speed Meets Security
Trendnet 300Mbps Wireless N VPN Router TEW-659BRV

$103.99
www.trendnet.com

A wireless router that operates faster than wired Ethernet is vital for today's bandwidth-demanding workloads, such as HD video and audio teleconferencing, multiple concurrent users, and VoIP. The 300Mbps Wireless N VPN Router TEW-659BRV does all of the above and more at a speedy 300Mbps. This router is also highly secure and capable of defining up to 80 Virtual Private Network tunnels and letting you configure the built-in firewall. With a press of the WPS button, you can quickly connect compatible wireless devices without further configuration.

- For another layer of security, this router supports Advanced Stateful Packet Inspection (SPI) and Network Address Translation (NAT) encryption.

- Other perks include GRE tunneling, advanced Quality of Service controls, domain filtering, and packet filtering.

- The router supports the ability to broadcast up to four SSIDs with different encryption.

Don't Let Cable Clutter Cramp Your Style
ARCTIC Cable Organizer

Gadgets are great for keeping us connected to our families, friends, and colleagues, but it's a chore untangling the mess of cables whenever you need to plug them in for charging and syncing. ARCTIC's Cable Organizer is an attractive finned semi-hemisphere composed of weighted stainless steel. The bottom of the cable organizer features an anti-slip material that keeps the unit secure without leaving a sticky residue should you decide to move it.

- The ARCTIC Cable Organizer is 290 grams, so it'll stay put when you plug in and unplug your gadgets.
- This unit looks sharp and competently organizes cables for smartphones, tablets, headphones, USB-based devices, and more.
- Each of the four grooves can hold cables between 3mm and 5mm thick.

Mother Nature's Kind Of Case
Targus Spruce EcoSmart Mini Messenger for iPad

The Targus Spruce Mini Messenger for iPad isn't just green in color; it's manufactured in such a way as to minimize the release of greenhouse gases, and the exterior is made from recycled plastic bottles. The case is both nickel- and PVC-free. It's also practical for the road warrior and includes a padded interior for the iPad, an organization compartment, pen loops, a business card holder, mesh storage space, and a zippered pocket for odds and ends. The iPad compartment has a soft scratch-resistant lining and enough additional room to accommodate a sync cable and power adapter.

- The spruce green inner accents brighten the interior, which helps you find what you need even in low light.
- With the soft inner lining, you can confidently store your iPad, smartphone, sunglasses, and more without worrying that they will get scratched in transit.
- The bag also features a cushioned carry handle and comes with a detachable padded shoulder strap.

The Easy Way To Work With Hard Drives
Thermaltake BlacX Duet 5G

An HDD docking station like the BlacX 5G Duet has multiple useful applications. Connected to your PC, this unit lets you instantly add additional storage without opening your case. You can also troubleshoot a potentially faulty drive, copy or clone the contents of one drive to a second drive, and quickly wipe drives for secure disposal or repurposing. The USB 3.0 interface makes sure you get speedy data rates, up to 5Gbps. This unit doesn't require any driver software and works right when you plug it in. With hotswap support, BlacX Duet 5G users can connect and disconnect drives without restarting the computer.

- The unit supports USB 3.0 and is backward compatible with USB 2.0 (up to 480Mbps) and USB 1.1 (up to 12Mbps).

- The dual form factor slots let you connect either 2.5-inch laptop HDDs or SSDs or 3.5-inch SATA hard drives.

- The Thermaltake BlacX Duet 5G comes with a 3-year warranty.
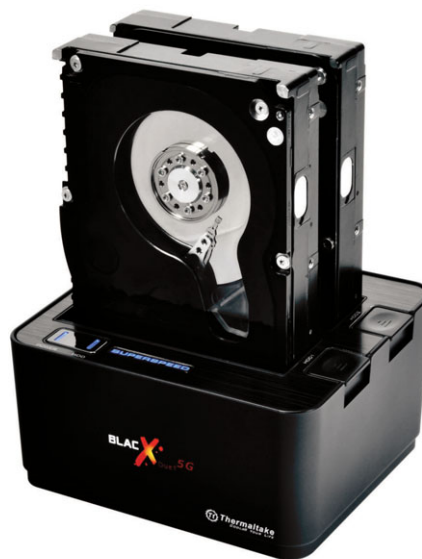
Give Your Monitor A Boost
Zalman DS1000

Desk space is crucial for anyone who spends a lot of time at the PC. With the Zalman DS1000 aluminum monitor stand, you can raise your monitor off the desk by 2.7 inches so you can reclaim that space. The riser also brings the monitor closer to eye level, which can help improve your posture and overall computing comfort. Constructed from an attractive piece of brushed aluminum, the DS1000 is available in silver or black anodized finishes. The unit features a built-in 4-port USB 2.0 hub, so you can keep your additional devices powered and connected. And with the cable-management gaps on either side, you can keep those cords routed out of the way.

- When not in use, you can slide your keyboard and mouse underneath to keep them out of sight.

- The DS1000 is built to handle monitors that weigh up to 44 pounds.

- The unit's slip-resistant rubber feet ensure the stand stays put.

$79.99
pdftransformer.abbyy.com

Do More With Your PDFs
ABBYY PDF Transformer 3

The latest version of ABBYY's PDF Transformer is ideal for anyone who frequently works with PDF (Portable Document Format) files. This software lets you convert any PDF file into an editable document, fully preserving source layout and formatting. If you're running Microsoft Office, you can quickly and easily convert a document, spreadsheet, or presentation into a PDF document, with just one click. You can also use the software to redact sensitive information, combine multiple files into a single PDF, add a watermark, make it searchable, and even create protected PDFs.

- PDF Transformer 3 lets you create PDF/A documents, which are ideally suited to long-term archiving.
- With this software, you can quickly append new files to an existing PDF document.
- Protect your PDF documents so that only those you authorize can access them.

$49 (single user)
www.avantstar.com
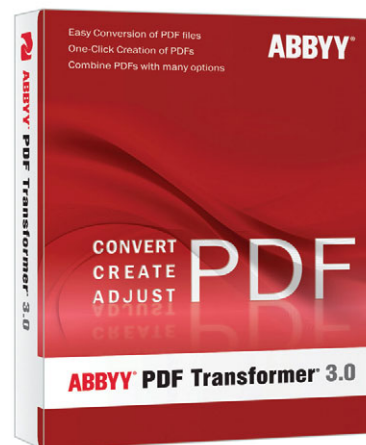
The Swiss Army Knife Of File Viewers
Avantstar Quick View Plus 12

Avantstar's Quick View Plus 12 Standard Edition file-viewing software lets you take a peek at more than 300 file formats without installing the native application. Quick View Plus 12 supports common and hard-to-access formats alike, including Microsoft Office 2010 and earlier file formats, more than a dozen database formats, compressed formats, image formats, and Microsoft Outlook formats. It also features support for an additional 32 formats, including Adobe PDF (Package and Portfolio), AutoCAD (2010, 2009, and 2008), Corel WordPerfect X4, and Open Office 3 formats.

- Quick View Plus eliminates the need for purchasing software just to view files, along with the requisite maintenance on those applications.
- The software ensures you can view nearly any file type exchanged as an email attachment from customers, clients, and other organizations.
- A single interface for accessing any file type makes it easy for users to view and print files.
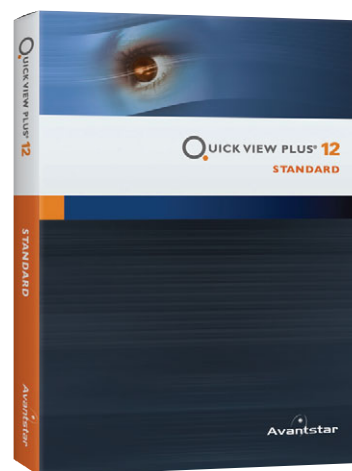
Beautify Your Yard All By Yourself

Chief Architect Software Home Designer Landscape & Deck

Whether you're in the business of deck building and landscaping or just looking for a do-it-yourself way to plan your own project, Chief Architect's Deck & Landscape Design Software is the way to go. This software lets you design and lay out backyards, decks, patios, pools, and more. With intuitive point-and-click controls and access to more than 3,600 realistic plants, you're just minutes from a fully realized outdoor wonderland. The software also helps you create materials lists, determine the best plants for the given climate, and, most importantly, determine how much it will cost.

- You can design everything from simple gardens to complex multi-level decks.

- Automated tools let you quickly and easily add stairs, ramps, deck railings, and covered patios.

- The software also lets you generate cut and buy lists for your decking and gardening projects.

Payroll Made Simple

Intuit QuickBooks Payroll Enhanced

QuickBooks Payroll Enhanced (QuickBooks 2009 or newer required) is one of the fastest and easiest ways to get paychecks into the hands of your employees. This software lets you print checks or arrange to have the funds direct deposited, which leaves you more time to focus on how to make the money you're paying out. The software also offers several automated capabilities, including payroll tax calculations and completed federal and state tax forms. QuickBooks Payroll Enhanced also makes it easy to provide pay-as-you-go workers' compensation insurance and a retirement plan with Intuit 401(k).

- Full integration with QuickBooks makes tracking your payroll expenses quick and easy.

- Keep track of workers' compensation.

- Users have access to free live assistance during business hours (M-F, 6am-6pm PST) and 24/7 access to the Intuit online support center.
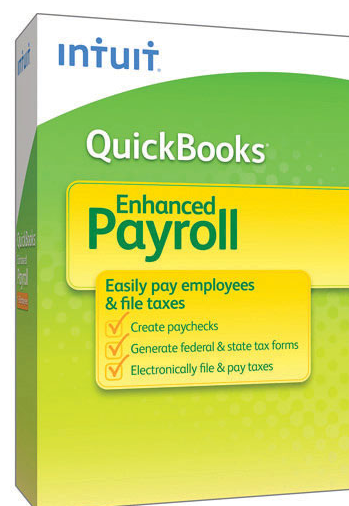
Give Your Logo A Facelift
Logo Design Studio 4.0

Logo creation is one of the most crucial but oft-overlooked aspects of forming a new business. This software lets you quickly and easily create quality logos capable of successfully launching a new business or energizing an existing one. Logo Design Studio features more than 1,500 pre-designed templates, 5,000 logo objects, and a variety of editing tools to adjust colors, fonts, shapes, and effects to help make your business's logo say exactly the right thing. You can also import your own graphics and images to further customize your logos.

- Manipulate text with circular, wavy, projective, and outline effects and get sharper text results with bundled TrueType fonts.

- Thousands of customizable spheres, swooshes, signs, symbols, shapes, flags, paint strokes, and more help you create interesting designs.

- Text and shape effects such as shadows, frames, blurs, and embossing add unique flavor to your logos.
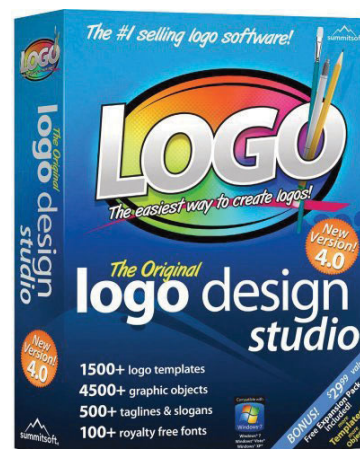
Be Your Own Web Designer
Magix Xara Web Designer 7 Premium

Having a website is a vital part of running a business, but the process of building it can be costly if you turn to a third party or overwhelming if you try to do it yourself. But not with Xara Web Designer 7 Premium, which is an all-in-one utility for creating your own eye-catching websites. This software features more than 30 exclusive extras compared to the non-Premium offering, including 3D design tools, advanced image editing capabilities, more professional design templates, dynamic effects, and multiple e-commerce options.

- Get your site visitors' attention with Flash animations.

- Get your site noticed by search engines with advanced search engine optimization features.

- This software features an intuitive interface to help you quickly and easily design and publish your website.
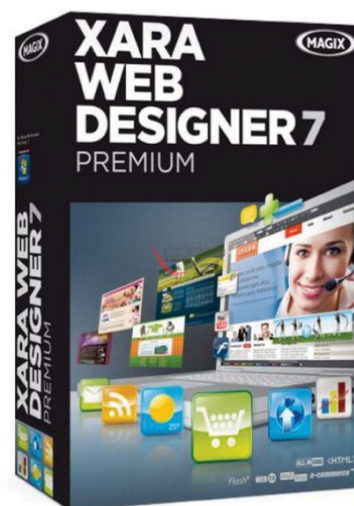
A Padlock For Your Email
MailRoute

Email is the cornerstone of a modern business's communications, so make sure it's protected from viruses and spam. This hosted online service requires no hardware or software and can be set up to begin filtering email on your desired domain in minutes. MailRoute has an extremely low false positive rate, has the ability to store and forward email during and after a mail server outage, and keeps on top of the latest virus definitions by updating every five minutes. The outbound SmartHost relay lets MailRoute handle outbound email, which provides your email recipients with the same spam and virus protection you enjoy.

- MailRoute charges fees based on the number of users, not aliases, mailing lists, or active or inactive accounts.
- MailRoute offers a 99.999% uptime guarantee.
- You don't need to update servers or desktops, and the reduced server load means you can focus resources elsewhere.

Photo Editing For The Pros
Nik Software Color Efex Pro 4

Photo-editing software can be fun for casual shutterbugs, but professional photographers who want the ultimate control over the images they shoot need something a little more involved. Color Efex Pro 4 is powerful image-editing software that gives you dozens of tools for color correction, retouching, and adding creative effects. Whether your goal is to stylize photos, restore damaged or aging images, or just explore your creative whims, Color Efex Pro 4 has you covered.

- Access to 55 filters and countless effects lets you create unique and stunning images for yourself or your clients.
- The website features live Webinars and video tutorials to help you master some of the more advanced functions.
- Eight new filters and 10 improved filters as well as a history browser help you make a big impact with your images.
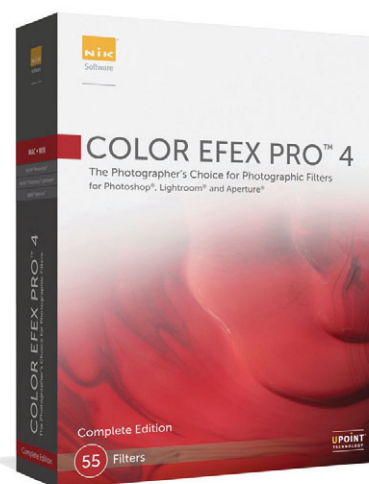
News, Views & Tips

Windows

MSN has launched a new service that monitors social media and Bing (www.bing.com) to spot news trends early.
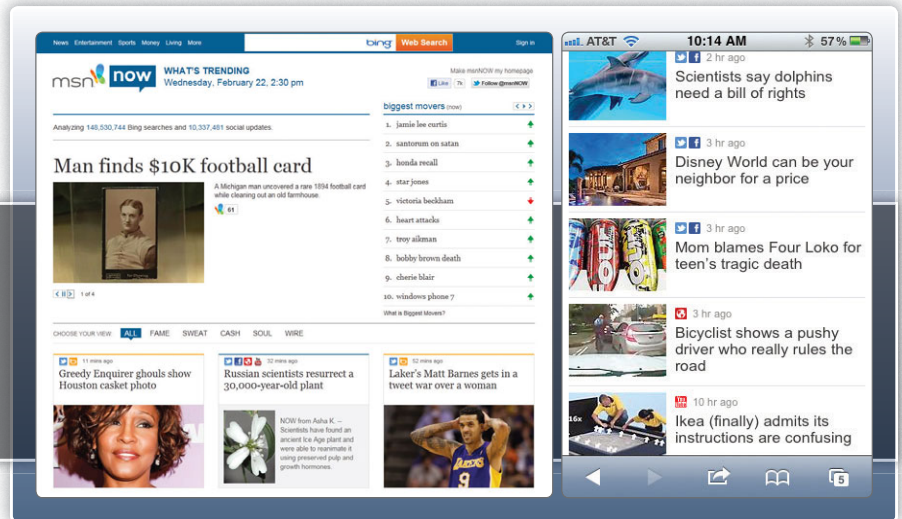
MICROSOFT NEWS

MSN Launches msnNOW

Want to know what topics are trending in social media? Turn to msnNOW (now.msn.com), which analyzes Bing, BreakingNews.com, Facebook, and Twitter. The site is curated by a team (with offices in London, New York, and Seattle) that produces the brief trend descriptions and selects topics. MSN expects the site to help reporters sift old stories (and stories that don't have much traction) from stories that are quickly becoming popular.

Microsoft Dynamics CRM Goes Mobile

Microsoft Dynamics CRM (customer relationship management) is coming to your smartphone. The next service update, which is scheduled for Q2 this year, provides support for Android, BlackBerry, iOS, and Windows Phone 7. Thanks to this update, you'll be able to access any CRM information directly from your smartphone, and capture and convert leads securely without changing your workplace CRM environment. The mobile version will start at $30 per user, per month, for up to three devices. The update also adds browser functionality, including Chrome, Firefox, Internet Explorer, and Safari on PCs, as well as Macs and iPads. ▌

WINDOWS TIPS

Browse Your Open Windows & Applications

It's easy to build a collection of open tabs in your Taskbar over the course of the workday. If you frequently find yourself clicking tabs as you hunt for a particular window, press WIN-TAB. (WIN is the Windows key, typically located between the CTRL and ALT keys. On some keyboards, this key has a Windows logo.) This opens Windows Flip 3D.

Windows Flip 3D displays your windows as though they are on a conveyer belt. Press TAB again (while holding down the WIN key), and they will slide across your Desktop, cycling until you stop and select a
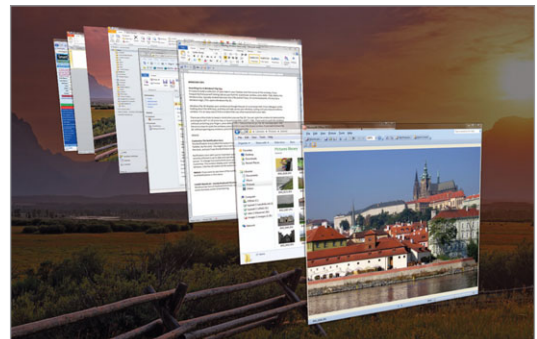
If your Taskbar is cluttered, browse your open windows with Flip 3D. You can open it with a keyboard shortcut.

window. It is an easy way to find a window that was otherwise buried in your tabs.

There are a few tricks to keep in mind when you use Flip 3D. You can cycle the window list backward by pressing WIN-SHIFT-TAB. If you want to cycle the windows without contorting your fingers, press WIN-CTRL-TAB and then let go. Flip 3D now stays open. Use the arrow keys to cycle the windows; press ENTER to open the closest window. If you want to leave Flip 3D without opening any windows, press the ESC (Escape) key.

Customize The Notification Area

The Notification Area is on the right side of the Taskbar by the clock. You might miss it at first, because it's usually hidden. Click the small arrow near the clock, and you'll see the Notification Area's icons.

Notification icons alert you to important system changes or events, such as displaying your laptop's remaining battery power. To change how (and which) icons are displayed, click the arrow on the Taskbar and click Customize. This window displays each notification and a drop-down menu that lets you change the way it behaves. Click the OK button at the bottom of the window to save your choices. ▮

WINDOWS NEWS

Microsoft Releases Kinect For Windows

The Microsoft Kinect for Xbox 360 introduced the idea that "You are the controller," and soon, we'll be able to utilize the tracking sensor with our PCs via Kinect For Windows ($249.99; www.microsoft.com). The combination of Kinect hardware and software will allow you to use gestures and

Microsoft's Kinect For Windows will let you control your PC using gestures and voice commands.

voice commands to control your computer. Microsoft indicates that the price will include a one-year warranty, support, and access to the software updates for the Kinect's speech and human tracking. Microsoft indicates that Kinect For Windows features a Near Mode where the camera can track objects as close as 40 centimeters to the sensor. ▮

Handy Keyboard Shortcuts

Windows has tons of keyboard shortcuts, some of which can speed up your day-to-day tasks. Here are some shortcuts worth remembering.

SHORTCUT	FUNCTION
WIN-F1	Opens Windows Help And Support
CTRL-Z	Starts the Undo function. It's handy when you make a mistake.
CTRL-Y	Starts the Redo function. It's handy when you realize you didn't really make a mistake.
Win-PAUSE	Open the System window in the Control Panel. This is a great way to impress fellow PC enthusiasts when you're helping them troubleshoot.
WIN-D	Displays the Desktop. When you need to minimize all windows at once, this is the way to do it. Press again to restore them.
WIN- L	Locks Windows. That is, if your Windows account has a password. To edit your account, click Start, Control Panel, User Accounts.
WIN-P	Opens a window that helps you quickly change projector display options.
WIN-X	Opens the Windows Mobility Center. This is a great feature for laptop owners. See page 27 of the March issue for more info about this tool.

Microsoft Security Essentials

Protecting Your PC Should Be This Easy

I n the real world, common sense can make a big dif-ference in your general well-being. For instance, a defensive driver can expect to go years without an altercation before the law of averages crumples her fender. In the computing world, however, leaving your PC, notebook, or Mac unprotected from malware is like driving into oncoming traffic without your seatbelt fastened. Sooner rather than later, you will get hit with viruses, spyware, and other malicious software.

Anti-Malware To The Rescue

Microsoft Security Essentials is an anti-malware util-ity that delivers comprehensive protection against spy-ware, viruses, worms, Trojans, adware, and rootkits.

You can download and install it on any Windows XP SP3 (Service Pack 3) and higher, Windows Vista, and Windows 7 computer, free of charge. Microsoft Security Essentials only performs its scans in the background, and you can configure it to run when you're away from your computer. In this article, we'll provide step-by-step instructions for how to install and run Microsoft Security Essentials, so you can browse and download with confidence.

Step 1

Visit tinyurl.com/3ru63l5 and click the Free Download button. As long as you're running Genu-ine Windows software, validated by Microsoft, the

Click Run to download and then launch the Microsoft Security Essentials installation wizard.

You can click the hyperlink on the first page of the wizard to view the Privacy Statement.

To accept the Software License Terms, scroll down to read the document and then click I Accept.
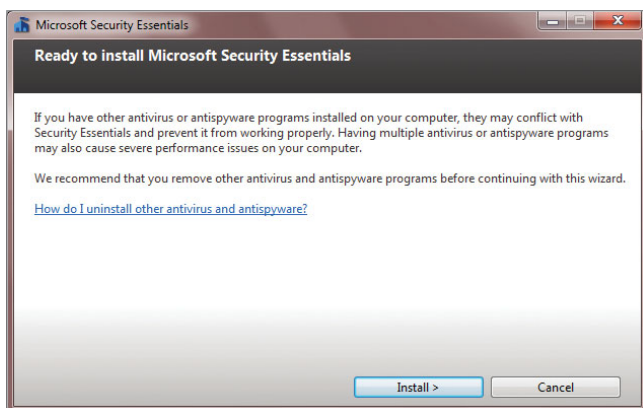
It's important to only run a single antivirus application at once, so if you're already running one, uninstall it now.
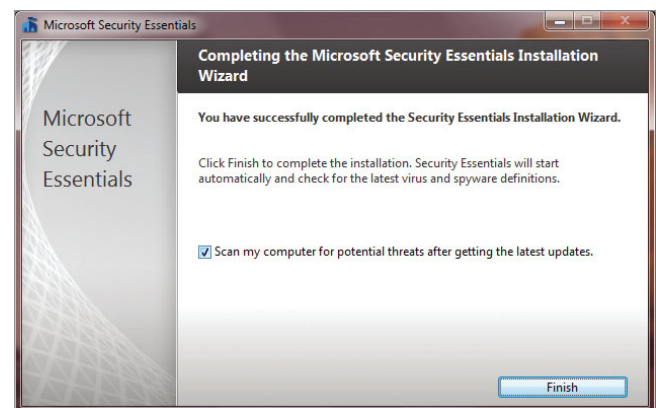
The initial scan may take several minutes to more than an hour depending on the number of files your system needs to scan.

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download will begin immediately after you click Run on the browser's download notification.

Step 2

Click Next on the Microsoft Security Essentials Wizard to initiate the installation. On the following screen, you have the opportunity to read the Microsoft Security Essentials license terms. When you're finished, click I Accept to proceed.

Step 3

Click the appropriate radio button to join the Customer Experience Improvement Program (CEIP; lets Microsoft gather statistics about your system and usage) or to opt out. If you want to learn more about the CEIP, click the hyperlink on this page. Click Next when you're ready to proceed.

Step 4

On the subsequent screen, the installation wizard informs you that if the Windows Firewall is not on, the installation process will turn it on for added protection. Although running more than one antivirus or anti-malware utility can cause software conflicts, a firewall is designed to work with your antivirus software, as a means of stopping threats before they appear on the system. If you are using a third-party firewall, or do not want the Windows Firewall enabled, then uncheck the box on this screen. Otherwise, leave this box checked and click Next to proceed.

Step 5

The next screen warns that running another antivirus and antispyware application can cause conflicts with Microsoft Security Essentials, so now would be a good time to uninstall any of those you might have

Trend Micro Titanium Maximum Security 2012
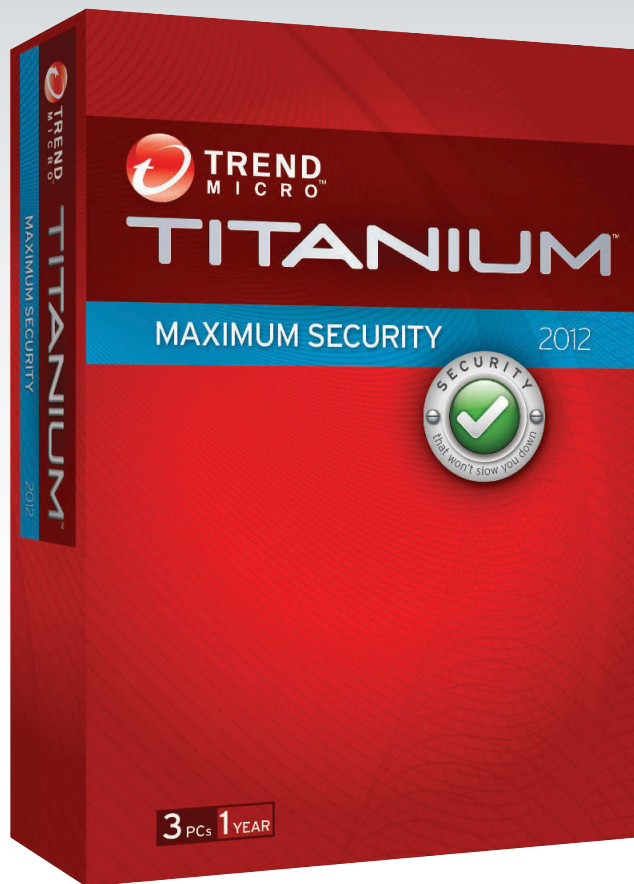
Running an anti-malware application is vital, but it's not your last line of defense when it comes to protecting your PC. Full-featured security suites, such as Trend Micro's Titanium Maximum Security 2012 ($79.99; www.trendmicro.com), provides all the tools you need to secure your PC, lock down your wireless network, protect mobile devices, make your online shopping sessions safer, scour downloads, inoculate your Web browser, and more.

As a security suite, Trend Micro Titanium Maximum Security includes an anti-malware component that protects your system from viruses and spyware, so there's no need for a redundant program such as Microsoft Security Essentials. Trend Micro's offering also protects your system from spam, includes a fake antivirus program removal tool, provides identity theft protection, secures your social networking profiles, and lets you remotely lock sensitive files if your computer is ever stolen.

The new System Tuner automatically clears out unnecessary browser histories, cookies, temporary files, registries, and the start-up manager to make sure your system stays fast and responsive for a good long while.

Trend Micro's Titanium Maximum Security 2012 does a lot more than just protect your system against malware.

previously installed. There's a hyperlink here to help you uninstall your old antivirus utility if you need help. Click Install to continue.

Step 6

After a few minutes, the wizard will complete the installation. By default, Microsoft Security Essentials updates itself and runs a scan when you click Finish. If you don't want to run the utility immediately, then uncheck the box. Click Finish to complete the installation. If you left the box checked, Microsoft Security Essentials will automatically download the latest update and run a scan of your system.

Step 7

To perform a manual scan, click the up arrow in the notification area in the lower-right corner of your screen. Click the Microsoft Security Essentials icon and then click Open to display the interface. On the Home tab, you can click the Quick, Full, and Custom radio buttons and the Scan Now button to perform the designated operation. Click the Update tab and then the Update button to download the latest virus and spyware definitions. The History tab shows you the results of past scans, and the Settings tab lets you perform various functions, including scheduling the scans, enabling/disabling real-time protection, and excluding certain file types from the scan.

Safe At Last

Microsoft Security Essentials is just one of several anti-malware utilities from which you can choose. It's fast, unobtrusive, and free. Don't jeopardize your computing experience—get protected now. ∎

Promote Your Business

Search Engine Optimization

SEO stands for Search Engine Optimization (the process of making your company's website more search engine friendly by including content that is easily discovered, analyzed, and indexed by modern search engines) or Search Engine Optimizer (a consultant or employee whose job is to improve the searchable content on your website and helps you reach target markets).

Why SEO?

By improving your website's visibility in search engines, you can improve the likelihood that potential customers and clients will be able to find you when they're browsing the Web for the service or products you provide. SEO is also a wise choice for small businesses because many consumers now use local search options, such as Google Places, to track down business options near them. ▮

Search Engine Optimization Tips

Here a few key SEO tips you should think about when adding content to your website.

- Your website should accurately reflect what you sell using words that people would use when searching for the services or products you offer. For instance, a website for a plumber should include words such as shower, sink, toilet, plumbing supplies, faucets, or fixtures.

- Information-based content, such as practical use examples or popular use scenarios for your particular product or service, offer a way to add searchable words to your website.

- Your website should be set up in a way where every page features a static URL, so a search engines can "see" the text on your entire website.

Most search engines can examine the text on your website, so you'll want to provide content on the website that covers your product or service. For example, *Smart Computing*'s website features both troubleshooting and PC-based terminology.

Find An SEO Consultant

If your site still isn't ranking well, you may want to try a search engine optimizer, and here are a few things you should ask an SEO expert.

- Take a look at examples of past client websites and ask for references.

- Ensure that the SEO consultant isn't using paid spots, such as Google AdWords, to improve your website traffic. Ads are short-term and won't provide the long-term enhancements delivered by SEO.

- Ask the SEO expert exactly how he or she plans to achieve results and what services you'll receive for your money.
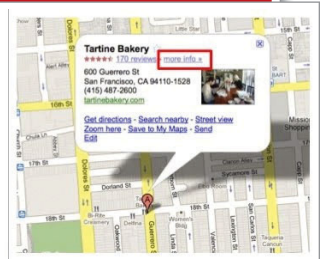
SEO may seem like a something only big businesses should be concerned about, but many consumers now use local search tools, such as Google Places, to find nearby services, so even small businesses should take advantage of SEO techniques.

Tech Talk

Answers to users' most common questions about **Projectors**

Most recent projectors include video inputs for HDMI (High-Definition Multimedia Interface), a computer input (either DVI [Digital Visual Interface] or VGA [Video Graphics Array]), and component.

Q What are a projector's key specifications concerning image quality?

The two key specifications for image quality with projectors are resolution and brightness. Resolution is the physical number of pixels used to create the on-screen content. You'll see resolution expressed with two numbers, such as 1,920 x 1,080. The first number is how many pixels run from the left side to the right side, while the second number covers the top to bottom pixels. The higher the resolution, the more detail you'll see in the projection, which is important for those that have presentations with text, graphs, and video.

Brightness is measured in lumens. The more lumens, the brighter the image the projected image will appear (note that you can lower the brightness, if necessary). Most any projector will look good in a dark room, but the amount of lumens comes into play when you use a projector in situations where the lights won't be turned off, such as at a board meeting or when performing training. In short, a projector that offers a greater number of lumens than another can be used in a wider range of venues and provides you with the flexibility to adjust the image to room conditions.

Q How will I know if a projector will display a size that works in my environment?

Typically, a projector manufacturer will list the throw distance (range of space between projector and screen), such as 4 feet to 95 feet, as well as the span of screen sizes the projector can accurately deliver. The zoom lens built into the projector will allow you to adjust the size of the image to best fit the wall or projection

Maximum Resolution	1440 x 1050
Native Resolution	(800 x 600)
Aspect Ratio	4:3
Brightness	Up to 2800 lumens

Maximum resolution and brightness are two of the most important specs when it comes to a projector's image quality.

screen, while the focus controls allow you to adjust the image for crisp detail.

You can use the projector's focus and zoom controls to fit the picture to the screen.

Q What types of image correction are available to shift the picture when the projector isn't situated perfectly in the room?

There are two types of image correction you'll need to know about: lens shift and digital keystone correction. With lens shift, the projector can alter the position of the lens to move the projected image slightly up or down (vertical lens shift), and some projectors can also adjust the image to the left or right (horizontal lens shift).

The MicroVision SHOWWX+ ($369; www.microvision.com) is a pico projector that works with any HDMI-equipped smartphone, tablet, or laptop.

Digital keystone correction is used when the projector isn't lined up perpendicular to the screen, which causes the image to appear more trapezoidal than square. If you can't shift the lens to accommodate the location, keystone correction scales the image before it reaches the lens, so it will end up looking square on the wall.

Q **What is a Pico projector?**

It's a handheld projector that's designed to project images from your portable devices, such as smartphone or laptop, for a small viewing audience. These lightweight projectors can generally fit in a pocket, so they're great for business travelers who need a projector with them.

Q **What types of devices will I be able to connect to the projector?**

Most recent projectors include video inputs for HDMI (High-Definition Multimedia Interface), a computer input (either DVI [Digital Visual Interface] or VGA [Video Graphics Array]), and component. Thus, you'll be able to connect a wide variety of equipment to the projector. Before purchase, ensure that the projector offers inputs that match the video output of your devices. A few audio inputs are also generally included, assuming the projector features built-in speakers.

Q **What is the typical lifespan of a projector lamp?**

Most current projectors come with a lamp that will operate beyond 3,000 hours in its brightest mode. Projectors will often provide you with a lamp life rating (in hours) for multiple display modes, such as Eco (long lamp life) and Standard modes. ∎

Projectors offer inputs for all different types of devices.

Mobile Marketplace

Business Apps *For Android & Windows Phone 7*

Some powerful business tools are floating in the sea of smartphone apps. Each month, we'll highlight some of the best ones for Windows 7 and Android platform users. (Unless otherwise noted, Windows Phone 7 apps are available in the Windows Phone Marketplace, and you'll find Android apps in the Android Market).
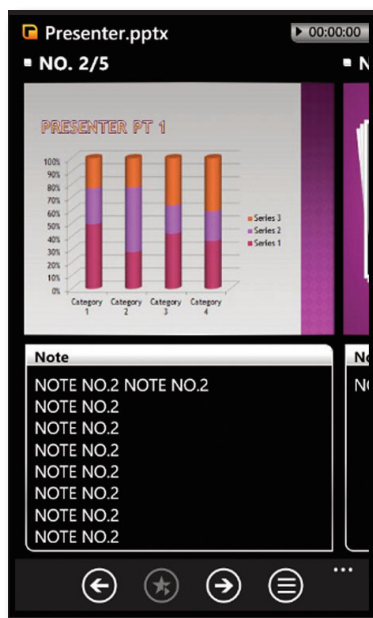
Presenter

Windows Phone 7

PowerPoint presentations are a viable way to communicate in the business world, but being tethered to your notebook or PC to advance slides can prevent you from effectively engaging your audience. With Presenter ($2.99) on your Windows Phone and the host utility on your PC, you can control the slides, view notes, and successfully captivate your audience by moving freely among them. Controlling the show from your phone is sure to impress even the most tech-savvy among your viewers. Other features include Wi-Fi and 3G connectivity, support for Microsoft Office 2007 and 2010, and Bluetooth support is on the way.
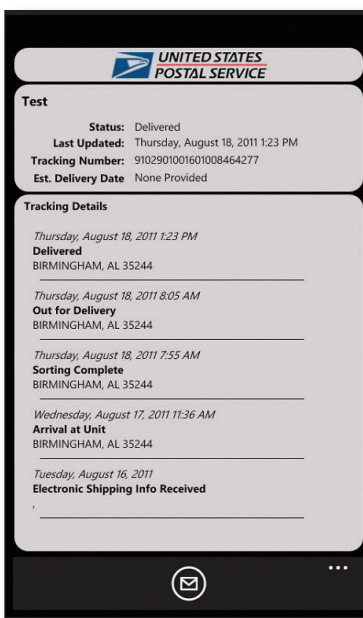
Shippin' Buddy

Windows Phone 7

Tracking shipments is a vital piece of the small business puzzle and being able to do it quickly, from wherever you happen to be, can make a big difference in how you operate. With JNJ Development's Shippin' Buddy (99 cents), you can quickly and easily track shipments and deliveries from some of the most popular carriers, including UPS, FedEx, the U.S. Postal Service, DHL, and more. In trial mode, there are advertisements, but the paid version is ad-free. With support for push notifications, you'll never miss an important shipment.

WeatherDuck

Windows Phone 7

There are a ton of weather apps out there, but what WeatherDuck (Free) does better than many others is make it simple to view the current temperature and precipitation at-a-glance and quickly determine the weather conditions over the course of the day. You can also create weather tiles for specific locations, so you can get conditions right from your Start screen. Other features include a 10 Days Forecast, Offline Mode to access your weather without network connectivity, the ability to change the color of your weather tiles, and more.
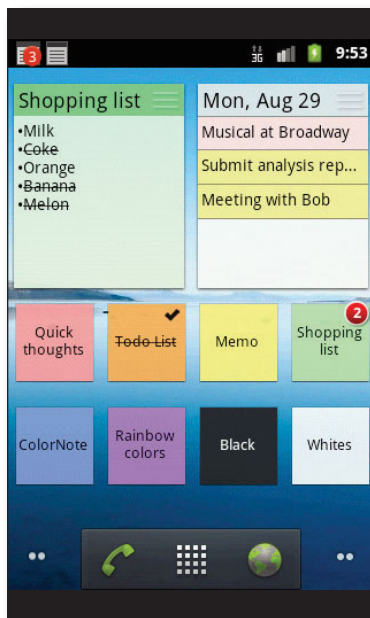
ColorNote Notepad Notes

Android

With an effective reminder system in place, even the most disorganized person can accomplish great things. Or at least show up on time for appointments. ColorNote (Free) lets you quickly jot down notes, memos, emails, messages, shopping lists, and to-do lists. You can color-code the messages, post them to your Home screen as with the Sticky Note widget, make them into checklists, and even password-protect your notes. Other cool features include status bar reminders, a search function that makes finding old notes easy, and the ability to back up your notes to SD (Secure Digital) storage.

Pure Grid Calendar Widget

Android

If you're like us, your smartphone's Home screen is the most-glanced-at screen in your daily routine. But with the Pure Grid Calendar Widget ($1.99), your Home screen becomes significantly more glance-worthy. This widget-based application displays a calendar on one of your Home screens, letting you quickly check your agenda, to-do lists, and tasks in monthly or weekly chunks. Pure Grid Calendar Widget syncs to Google calendars, TouchDown, and Moto/LG Exchange, and displays tasks from Astrid, Ultimate To-Do List, TaskSync, CalenGoo, gTasks, Got To Do, and more.

App Of The Month
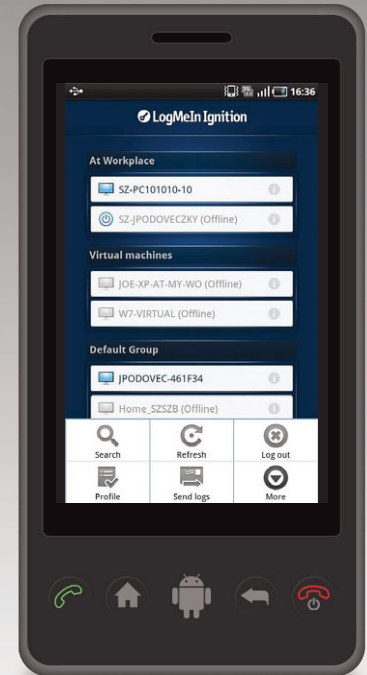
LogMeIn Ignition

Android

This useful little utility lets Log-MeIn Free and Pro users tap into their computers right from their Android-based smartphones. Once connected, you can control your Mac or PC to run your applications, access files, and retrieve documents and contacts no matter where you happen to be. LogMeIn Ignition ($29.99) is particularly useful for running business applications, such as CRM (customer relationship management), ERP (enterprise resource planning), Salesforce, and Microsoft Office remotely, to get information you need while on the road. This application is also compatible with Android Honeycomb 3.0 and optimized for use on Android-based tablets.

Business Tech

The State Of Smartphones

The iPhone 4S runs iOS 5, the latest version of Apple's smartphone software.

designed to let users run third-party software, typically downloaded from a platform-exclusive applications marketplace. They also support Web connectivity, email, photo and video capture, digital compass and GPS-based navigation, and more.

Who Makes 'Em?

Although the smartphone user experience is mostly defined by the platform, it is important to note that smartphone manufacturers do have some impact on what you see and feel with regard to the device.

Apple and RIM (Research In Motion) don't just make smartphone OSes, they also manufacture iOS-based iPhones and BlackBerry
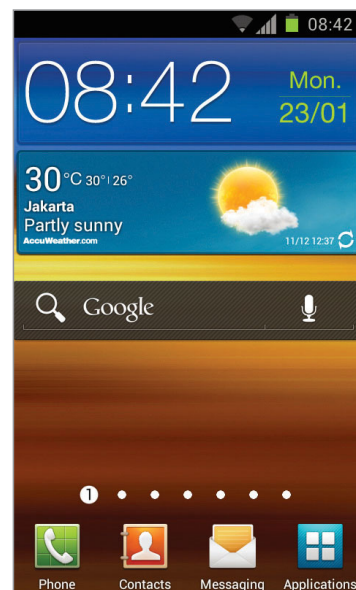
Samsung's TouchWiz user interface elements differ from that of stock Android.

S martphones are exploding in popularity. According to In-Stat, smartphones accounted for less than 20% of total handsets in 2010 but will account for 43% of all mobile phones by 2015. IDC predicts that smartphones will experience double-digit growth in the coming years as they snatch market share from feature phones.

Smartphone vs. Feature Phone

The biggest distinction between a smartphone and every other mobile phone is the ability of that phone to run an advanced mobile platform, such as Apple's iOS, Google's Android, Microsoft's Windows Phone 7, RIM's BlackBerry OS, and to a lesser extent, Nokia's Symbian, and the Linux-based Maemo and MeeGo. These phones are

OS-based BlackBerrys, respectively. For instance, every iPhone 4S sold around the world is, from a hardware and software standpoint, identical. With each new OS iteration, both Apple and RIM tend to launch new smartphones that show off the latest features. Both firms allow a handful of phones from the previous OS revision upgrade, but the older models tend to get left out.

Google and Microsoft, on the other hand, rely on third-party hardware manufacturers to create devices that will run the respective Android and Windows Phone 7 operating systems. Companies such as HTC, Samsung, LG, Motorola, and Nokia create hardware and work with the carriers (Sprint, AT&T, Verizon Wireless, etc.) to get a version of the target OS installed. At press time, the latest version of Android is 4.0, also called Ice Cream Sandwich. For Windows Phone 7 devices, Mango is the name of the latest update to the platform.

Unlike with BlackBerry and iPhone, Windows Phone 7 and Android phones come in a much wider variety of designs, screen sizes, and features. To make their devices stand out, many of these manufacturers also add software tweaks to give the phones a unique look and feel. For instance, Samsung's phones use the TouchWiz interface and HTC-based phones use the HTC Sense interface.

Mobile Must-Haves

Among Apple, Google, Microsoft, and RIM, smartphones offer a surprisingly uniform list of specifications, but there are a few features that set them apart. Apple's iPhones are renowned for being intuitive and let users manage and purchase audio and video content using the firm's iTunes software. Similarly, Microsoft's Windows Phone 7 devices use the Zune software to manage and buy content. Microsoft's phones also offer a unique user interface that favors large text and flat icons. One of the best things about Android-based

HTC's Sense user interface is used on a variety of Android-based smartphones from HTC.

devices is the sheer number of models available, from inexpensive to over-the-top. BlackBerrys have a reputation for being extremely business-friendly and having a rock-solid email and messaging scheme. ▮

Smart Business: Nokia Lumia 710

A business-oriented smartphone needs to be more than just a mobile portal to Web and email. The Nokia Lumia 710 does that, but it also makes you a master of your Microsoft Office documents with built-in Word and Excel editing. Bing Voice Search makes finding what you want nearby a cinch, including mapped directions, phone numbers, reviews, and even what the traffic looks like between where you are and where you want to be. The intuitive People Hub lets you keep in touch with your family, colleagues, and more in one easy-to-use app that incorporates your contacts, social networking updates, and messaging functions into a few information-packed screens.

The Nokia Lumia 710 makes finding people and places easy and intuitive.

A Slice Of Apple

Mac Tips & Tricks

If you're like many PC users, you have one or more Macs in your home or office. Here are some tips to help you work faster and have a little more fun on your Mac. This month we'll look at adding some social media features.

Add The Twitter Extension To Safari

If you use Twitter, the Twitter for Safari extension will save you time and make your tweets and life a little easier. Twitter for Safari—the official Twitter extension for Safari—tells you if the Web page you're on is trending on Twitter. If you decide to tweet about the page you're on, Twitter for Safari will automatically shorten the URL for you.

To add the Twitter for Safari extension, download it at extensions.apple.com. Click Twitter Tools from the menu on the left-hand side and then click Install Now next to Twitter for Safari.

Add StumbleUpon & Delicious To Safari

StumbleUpon and Delicious are great tools if you just love to surf the net. Unfortunately, neither StumbleUpon nor Delicious offer extensions for Safari. One easy way around this is to add the sites to your Safari bookmarks menu bar.
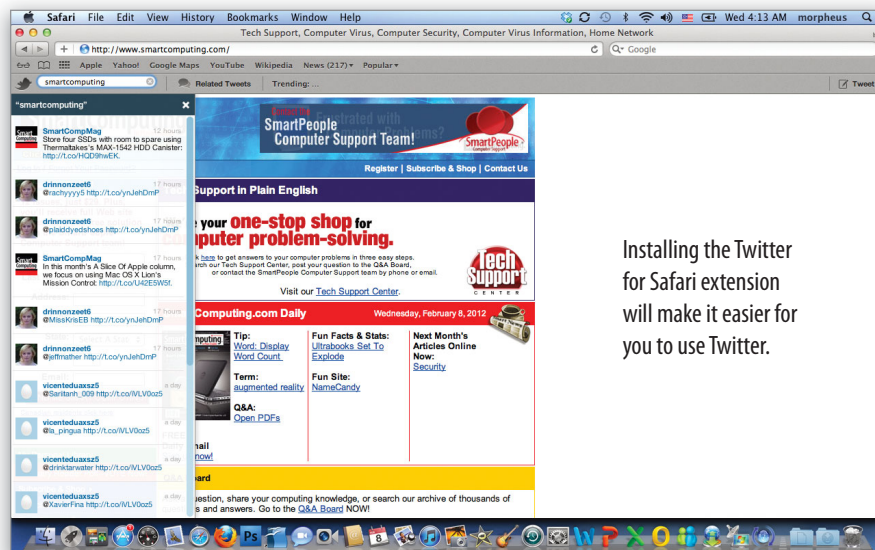
Installing the Twitter for Safari extension will make it easier for you to use Twitter.
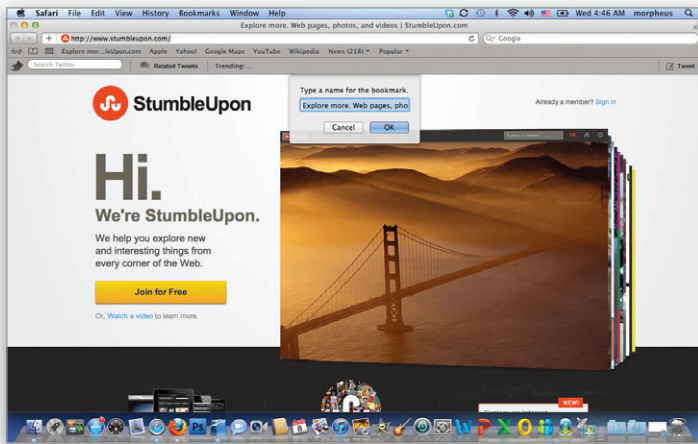
If a site doesn't have a Safari extension, simply add it to the bookmarks menu bar.

Set your screen saver to your favorite RSS feed.

and drag the link to your bookmarks menu bar. Safari will prompt you to rename the link. You'll want to do this, at times, since the site description is sometimes picked up with the site name.

If you prefer add-ons and plug-ins, though, you might want to try another browser. Both Firefox and Google Chrome have add-ons for Stumble-Upon and Delicious, as well as many other similar sites.

Change Your Screen Saver To An RSS Feed

Nearly every blog and many websites allow you to subscribe to an RSS feed. RSS feeds provide an easy way to keep up with what's changed on a website without having to check that site every day.

It's often overlooked, but you can set your screen saver to your favorite RSS feed.

Click the Apple icon on the main menu bar, select System Preferences, and then click on Desktop & Screen Saver. Select the Screen Saver tab. From the list on the left-hand side, select RSS Visualizer. Click the Options button. You'll be presented with a list of feeds you've already subscribed to. Simply select one of these to use as your screen saver. You can also enter an RSS feed URL in the Feed URL field. ▮

The easiest way to add a site to your Safari bookmarks menu bar is to go to the website you want to add: www .stumbleupon.com, for instance. Once you're there, simply left-click next to the URL in Safari's navigation bar

Use iChat For Facebook Chat

Do you use iChat a lot, but also use Facebook? Would you like to use iChat to talk to your Facebook friends? You can. You just need to set up your Facebook account in iChat.

Open iChat. Click on the iChat icon (the little blue bubble with the camera) on your Dock. Add a new account by clicking the plus sign. In the iChat Account dialog window, select Jabber as the Account Type. For Account Name, type in your_name@chat.facebook.com, where "your_name" is your Facebook account name. (It's possible you don't have a Facebook account name. If so, you'll need to set one under your account settings in Facebook.) Enter your Facebook password. Click the arrow next to Server Options. In the Server Name field, enter chat.facebook.com. Enter 5222 for the port. Leave the box next to SSL unchecked.
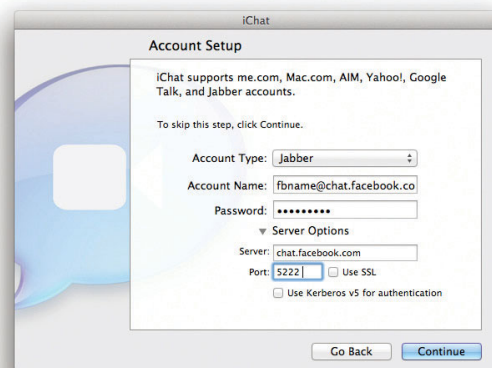
Use iChat to chat with your Facebook friends.

Fresh Fruit

Great Business Apps For Your iPad/iPod/iPhone

There's no shortage of impressive applications—some of them free—for Apple's popular family of mobile devices, and many of them are perfect for the home office worker or entrepreneur. Here are our favorite business-related mobile apps for the month. (Unless otherwise indicated, see the Apple App Store to purchase these apps.)

Kayak

iPhone iPod touch iPad
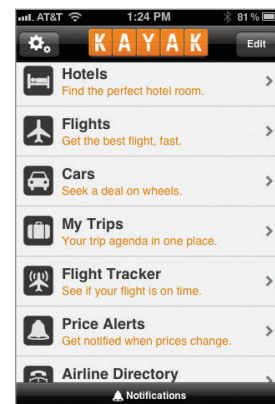
Designed to be a one-stop information shop for travelers, Kayak offers flight, hotel, and car rental information. Need to know whether your airline has baggage fees (and how much those fees are)? No problem. Need to know whether your flight is on time? Kayak can find out. Need to book a hotel? You can look up hotels, compare them (and even browse pictures, in some cases), and book one without ever leaving the app. Kayak is free.

MeetingResult

iPad

MeetingResult ($9.99) is designed to boost the value of your company's meetings. The app uses a custom methodology to ensure that meetings are efficient

Noteworthy App Of The Month

NoWait

`iPad` `iPod touch` `iPhone`

NoWait seeks to replace the venerable pager in your non-reservation restaurant by giving you something that the pager can't: the chance to communicate with your guests while they wait to be seated. The service texts guests with their wait times and customizable messages. It also develops text and email marketing lists, based on info you receive from your waiting guests. You can use the app to manage your wait list and contact guests when their tables are ready. NoWait also syncs your devices so you can manage the wait list from anywhere. Contact NoWait for usage-dependent pricing.
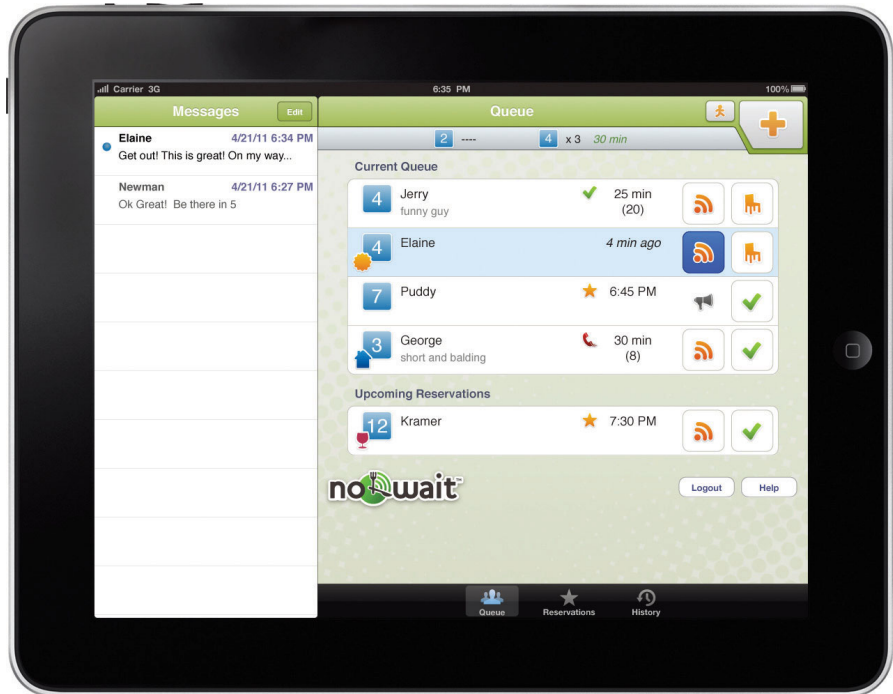
and result in actionable ideas. It provides support for planning, calling, and executing meetings, as well as making sure that attendees leave the meeting with an understanding of important points, such as: what decisions were made, who should take action, and what should be communicated to non-present employees. The app also helps managers with meeting follow-through, including customized summary reports sporting the company logo. MeetingResult supports integration with Dropbox, Evernote, and Google Docs.

PaperDesk   `iPad`

Carry your iPad long and you'll find yourself using it to take notes. It's particularly handy for meetings—if you have a note-taking app that lets you organize your notes. That app is PaperDesk ($3.99), which provides an endless supply of pages (lined to resemble notebook paper, but customizable, of course). Type your notes, draw with your fingertips, and add pictures with a few taps. You don't need a stylus, unless you like to write your notes by hand. Organizing your notes is a snap, thanks to the notebook creation tool. Sync your notes with myPaperDesk.com so you can restore your notes in the event that they're lost.

Skitch   `iPad`

Evernote Skitch (free) is the sort of app that can change the way you work, particularly if you find yourself pointing at things on your iPad while talking to coworkers. Display just about anything in Skitch (a photo, a website, a document, etc.) and you can draw on it with your finger. Want to emphasize an important note? Draw a circle around it with a quick gesture. Want to show a coworker the route to your meeting place? Trace it with your finger, and it's as clear as day. Of course, Skitch has plenty of shapes and other annotation tools for those of us who don't want to rely on our finger-painting skills alone. ∎

Desktops

The variety of desktop computers is astounding. You can choose from full-sized towers that take up a quarter of your desk to traditional midsized models and miniature systems that are about as large as a cable box. You can even buy an all-in-one PC, in which the hardware is built right into the monitor. Choosing a size is relatively easy, but most vendors also offer you an array of configuration choices. The challenge is figuring out how a given piece of hardware helps you meet your business needs.

■ Video & Image Editing

Photographers, videographers, and graphic designers need a desktop with lots of RAM (8GB is a fair starting point) and a graphics card (rather than a graphics chip embedded in the motherboard or processor) to crunch data-heavy video and photo projects. The worker's desk may also be filled with monitors, each featuring a different application, so you may want to look for a PC with a graphics card that can span the Windows Desktop across several screens. A large hard drive will help store your multimedia files.

■ The Busy Worker

This person has lots of applications open at once, and each program needs to operate quickly. A fast (think 2.5GHz or more) multicore processor and 6GB or more of memory should do the trick. It would be a bonus for the system to have built-in connectivity, such as Bluetooth and front USB ports, to connect and power the user's smartphone, tablet, or other mobile device.

■ The Spotless Desk

Often in meetings with clients, this person needs a computer that won't take up much space on the desk, such as an all-in-one PC or a compact desktop. Features that reduce the amount of cables running to the PC, such as Wi-Fi or a model bundled with a wireless keyboard and mouse, help to deliver an immaculate, professional look.

This is certainly not an exhaustive list, but it gives you a good starting point for finding the right desktop PC. As you browse the following pages, be sure to read each computer's highlights.

$849.99
us.acer.com

Acer AZ5771 AIO Desktop

The AZ5771 All-in-One Desktop features an innovative 23-inch display integrated into a thin, elegant design. This slim and attractive PC saves space in any home or office and features interactive touch-screen technology, powerful 2nd Generation Intel Core i3 performance, enhanced media sharing with social networks, and stunning HD entertainment, all at your fingertips.

Starts at $2,499
www.apple.com

Courtesy of Apple

Apple Mac Pro

The most basic configuration of Apple's Mac Pro includes a quad-core Intel Xeon processor that runs at 2.8GHz, while 6-core, 8-core, and 12-core options are also available. Graphics professionals will also like the capabilities of AMD's Radeon HD graphics cards, as two of the cards can provide connectivity for up to six monitors. The Mac Pro runs Mac OS X.

$949
www.asus.com

Asus Essentio CM6830

This desktop comes with an Intel Core i7-2600 processor that features four cores and Hyper-Threading technology to provide you with four additional virtual cores. The eight threads make for impressive multitasking, and Intel's Turbo Boost provides the Core i7-2600 with extra speed when necessary. Asus also includes an HDMI (High-Definition Multimedia Interface) output, so the system is easy to connect to today's high-end projectors and HDTVs.

ASUS®
Rock Solid · Heart Touching

Starts at $1,069
www.cyberpowerpc.com

CyberPower Power Video XE

With the Power Video XE, you'll have the freedom to custom configure a video-editing or graphics design workstation. Just a few of the high-end custom options that you can add include laser engraving, noise reduction add-ons, and extra case fans for improved cooling. You'll be able to choose from Intel's lineup of 2nd Generation Core processors, as well as from both NVIDIA and AMD graphics cards.

CYBERPOWER

Starts at $999
www.cyberpowerpc.com

CyberPower Zeus

The Zeus is CyberPower's newest performance series, and you'll be able to select from six models. The Zeus Thunder 1000, 2000, 300, and MAX feature a quad-core Intel processor that runs at 3.6GHz, while the Zeus Lightning 1000 and 200 models come with an 8-core AMD processor. For quick application load times, an SSD (solid-state drive) is a standard feature.

Starts at $749.99
www.dell.com

Dell XPS 8300

The XPS 8300 includes a recessed tray at the top of the case to hold your portable devices, such as an external hard drive or smartphone. You'll also enjoy the power of a 2nd Generation Intel Core processor, at least 8GB of memory, and a discrete AMD graphics card. Dell's custom configuration options provide you the freedom to select the hardware that best suits your needs.

$529.99
us.gateway.com

Gateway SX2370-UR10P

The compact SX2370-UR10P features a glossy black design and elegant curves that help the desktop blend into a home or small office with modern décor. You'll also enjoy the power of a 2.5GHz AMD quad-core processor and 6GB of memory. A 1TB (terabyte) hard drive is provided to give you plenty of space to store files and media. There are nine USB 2.0 ports and two USB 3.0 ports.

Starts at $479.99
www.hp.com

HP Pavilion P7xt

HP's Pavilion P7xt lets you select from a variety of Intel Core i3 dual-core processors, and all the models feature Intel's Turbo Boost Technology, which automatically boost system performance when under heavy loads. HP also includes a sliding front panel that provides you with quick access to the front USB, audio, and memory card ports, while artfully concealing the ports when not in use.

Starts at $599.99
www.lenovo.com

Lenovo H330

The slim H330 from Lenovo is two times smaller than a standard desktop, according to the company. You'll also be able to configure the H330 based on your needs, and key options include your choice of Intel's 2nd Generation Core processors, up to 8GB of memory, and up to 2TB of storage. Lenovo also provides its RapidBoot technology to help you optimize system files and hardware settings to achieve the fastest boot times.

lenovo. FOR THOSE WHO DO.

$799
www.lenovo.com

Lenovo ThinkCentre Edge 91z

The Edge 91z is an all-in-one that provides you with a number of features to keep you productive. You'll enjoy the processing power found in traditional desktops with an Intel 2nd Generation Core processor, while superior multimedia prowess is provided by an optional 1GB AMD Radeon discrete graphics card. Lenovo even builds in a VESA mount, so the PC won't take up any desk space.

lenovo. FOR THOSE WHO DO.

Starts at $699
www.msi.com

MSI Wind Top AE2071

With the Wind Top AE2071, you'll get a PC that's environmentally friendly thanks to its LED (light-emitting diode) backlight display and MSI's energy-saving technology. For example, you can shut down the screen—while the PC is still on—to reduce power consumption by 28% when the computer waits in idle mode. For performance, MSI packs an Intel 2nd Generation Core processor and Intel HD Graphics.

msi

$1,275
www.pugetsystems.com/serenity

Puget Systems Serenity

Puget Systems brings true silence to computing with Serenity. Even with high-performance components, the noise level is rated at only 11dBA, which is most likely quieter than your monitor. Puget Systems uses thermal imaging to optimize the airflow of each custom PC it builds, making sure your cooling remains finely tuned as you customize your system.

Puget systems

Starts at $999.99
www.samsung.com

Samsung Series 7 All-In-One PC

This all-in-one desktop features a 23-inch touch-screen monitor, as well as a wireless keyboard and mouse to take up a minimal amount of desk space. The Series 7 All-in-One PC features the Samsung Touch Launcher software for ideal touch-screen access to your favorite applications. You can choose between an Intel Core i3 processor and 6GB of memory, or the high-end model with a Core i5 processor with 8GB of RAM.

SAMSUNG

Starts at $994.99
us.shuttle.com

Shuttle R4 6100P

The R4 6100P is a small form factor desktop that's ideal for those with limited desk space or who need to move a desktop PC between locations. Shuttle allows you to select from Intel's 2nd Generation Core processors, and you can install up to 16GB of memory. Graphics professionals can update to an NVIDIA Quadro graphics card for high performance video and image editing.

Shuttle®

$1,699
www.velocitymicro.com

Velocity Micro Edge Z55

Velocity Micro's GX2-W silver chassis provides a sleek, professional look. This build features a 2nd Generation Intel processor, at least 4GB of memory, and a dedicated graphics card that delivers support for dual monitors. You can also choose to configure the Edge Z55 with extra hard drives solely used for storage, as well as with an optical drive that can burn Blu-ray discs.

VELOCITY micro

$325.99
www.zotacusa.com

ZOTAC ZBOX ID80 PLUS

The miniature ZBOX ID80 PLUS is ideal for those who have limited desk space (it's a mere 7.4 inches square) and need a computer for basic Internet access and word processing. ZOTAC includes an Intel Atom 2.13GHz dual-core processor, an NVIDIA GeForce GT 520M graphics processor, 2GB of memory, a 320GB hard drive, and 802.11b/g/n Wi-Fi. The front panel offers a built-in memory card reader, USB 2.0 port, and audio inputs to make it easy to connect your external peripherals.

ZOTAC®

Monitors

When it comes to getting work done on your PC, a larger monitor (or monitors) can make you more productive. For example, extra screen real estate makes it easier to read text and analyze data, especially when applications are side by side. Multitaskers can compare information at a glance, and because you don't need to switch back and forth, you're less likely to lose track of information. New monitors also provide you with support for todays' high-definition inputs. Here are some key things you'll want to consider when buying a monitor.

■ Size

The majority of monitors you'll find will feature screen sizes between 19 and 24 inches (measurement is taken diagonally within the viewable screen area). A variety of large format monitors, including 27- and 30-inch models, are also available. Almost any monitor you buy will feature a widescreen display, and you'll find aspect ratios of either 16:9 (aspect ratio for movies) or the less common 16:10. Start by selecting a size range that will suit your needs.

■ Resolution

Monitor resolution typically scales with the size of a monitor. For instance, most 19-inch monitors offer a resolution of 1,400 x 900, while many 23-inch monitors have a native resolution of 1,920 x 1,080. If you're selecting between two equally sized monitors with different resolutions, opt for the one with a higher resolution, and you'll enjoy more detail and crisper text.
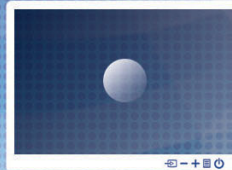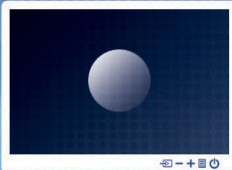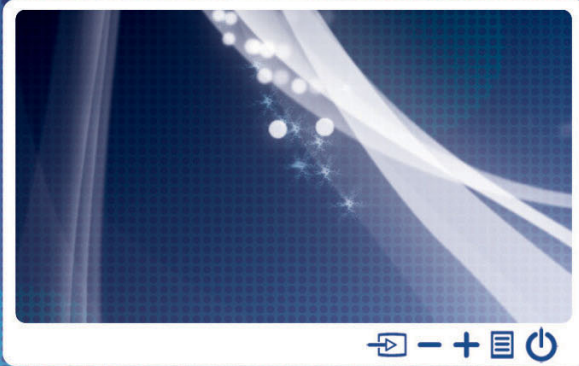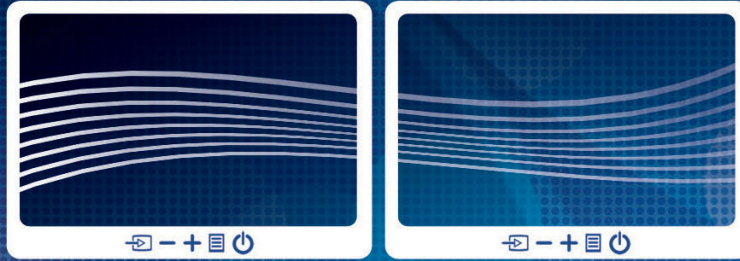
◼ Inputs

Today's computers offer a variety of outputs, including VGA (Video Graphics Array), DVI (Digital Visual Interface), HDMI (High-Definition Multimedia Interface), and DisplayPort. Make sure the monitor you choose offers inputs that match the type of outputs your PC uses.

Based on the information we've provided here, you can narrow your monitor search. Our guide will provide more details about the monitors to help you find the one for you.

$155
www.us.acer.com

Acer V233H AJbd

This 23-inch monitor from Acer features a resolution of 1,920 x 1,080 and a 16:9, widescreen aspect ratio. It includes an adjustable stand and mounting holes for wall mounts. The V233H AJbd provides both DVI (Digital Visual Interface) and VGA (Video Graphics Array) inputs. It is Energy Star Compliant and has an EPEAT (Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool) Silver rating.

$139
us.aoc.com

AOC 16-inch USB Monitor

AOC's 16-inch portable LED (light-emitting diode) monitor is the must-have laptop accessory. It receives both its power and signal through a single USB cable, so it's plug and play. It's ideal for dual-monitor setups at the office, home, and on-the-go. The ultra-light monitor supports both portrait and landscape display. Compatible with PC and Mac, this productivity-enhancing monitor offers top image quality in a sleek, portable package.

$999
www.apple.com

Image courtesy of Apple

Apple Thunderbolt Display

This display features Apple's Thunderbolt technology to let the monitor act as a hub for everything you do on your Mac. For example, you can use the monitor's built-in FaceTime HD camera to video chat with clients, as well as see them on the Thunderbolt Display's 2,560 x 1,400 resolution screen. Other features include three USB 2.0 ports, a FireWire 800 port, Gigabit Ethernet port, Thunderbolt port, and audio inputs.

$499
usa.asus.com

Asus PA246Q ProArt Series

This 24-inch monitor is built using a P-IPS (performance in-plane switching) panel that can reproduce 98% of the Adobe RDG color space and delivers a 178-degree viewing angle. For compatibility with multiple devices, you'll find inputs for DisplayPort, HDMI, DVI-D, and VGA. Asus' QuickFit Virtual Scale technology enables you to quickly see real-size previews of documents, photos, and other grid formats.

ASUS
Rock Solid · Heart Touching

$329.99
www.benq.us

BenQ BL2201PU

For your comfort, BenQ has installed its height adjustment system into the BL2201PU. The monitor can swivel 45 degrees to the left or right, tilt 20 degrees up or 5 degrees down, raise 5 inches up or down, or flip 90 degrees. The latter is particularly helpful if you deal with long lists of accounts, lengthy spreadsheets, and other content that doesn't easily fit onto a widescreen.

$259.99
www.dell.com

Dell ST2420L

The ST2420L from Dell is built with LED backlighting to help lower your office energy consumption, and it complies with the ENERGY STAR 5.0 standard. You'll also enjoy the display's 1,920 x 1,080 resolution and connectivity via HDMI, DVI, and VGA ports. The ST2420L features a tilt-adjustable stand that you can move 4 degrees forward and 21 degrees backward.

$1,199
www.doublesight.com

DoubleSight Displays DS-307W (30-inch)

The DoubleSight DS-307W provides sharp, crystal-clear images; wide viewing angles; and fast response times, which makes it perfect for home or office use. Key features include a 2,560 x 1,600 resolution, an adjustable monitor stand, and support for multiple input formats, including DP, DVI-D, VGA, HDMI, and Component. The DS-307W also supports a split-screen mode where you can see two inputs at once.

$419
www.eizo.com

Eizo FORIS FS2332

This 23-inch widescreen features IPS technology that provides more consistent and accurate colors when viewed from an angle than traditional display technology. The LED backlight reduces the monitor's power consumption and does not contain mercury. A Smart Resolution function analyzes both still and moving images for noise and blurring and adjusts them for maximum clarity.

$229.99
us.gateway.com

Gateway FHD2303L bid

With a 1080p native resolution and inputs for HDMI, DVI, and VGA, you'll be able to enjoy 1,920 x 1,080 video from all types of devices. The 23-inch FHD2303L bid also provides you with a sturdy L-shaped stand that securely holds your monitor in place. Gateway utilizes LED backlighting to reduce the monitor's power consumption and lower your energy costs.

$379
www.hannsg.com/us/en

Hanns.G HZ281HPB

The 27.5-inch HZ281HPB features a native resolution of 1,920 x 1,200 and a brightness of 400 nit to deliver vibrant color, even in sunny and well-lit environments. There are video inputs for HDMI, DVI-D, and VGA to let you connect a variety of devices. It's compatible with both Windows Vista and Windows 7, and Hanns.G backs it up with a three-year warranty.

$289
www.hp.com

HP ZR2240w

With the ZR2240w, you'll enjoy the accurate color and wide viewing angle (up to 178 degrees) provided by IPS technology. To help maximize productivity, the monitor features an 8-way comfort adjust stand that lets you change the height, tilt, swivel, and pivot positions. The 21.5-inch monitor delivers a resolution of 1,920 x 1,080 and features an LED backlit screen for energy efficiency.

$249.99
www.lenovo.com

Lenovo ThinkVision L2250P

Those interested in environmentally friendly monitors will like the ThinkVision L2250P. Lenovo's Light Booster technology reduces power consumption by 50% over conventional monitors of the same size and resolution. The 22-inch monitor features a native resolution of 1,680 x 1,050 and provides both VGA and DVI-D video inputs.

$239
www.necdisplay.com

NEC Display Solutions AS241W

NEC Display's AccuSync is compatible with a wide-range of environmental compliance standards, including EPEAT Silver, ENERGY STAR 5.1, and TCO 5.2. An ECO Mode lets you switch among several preset brightness levels to easily reduce monitor power consumption. The AS241W boasts a 1,920 x 1,080 resolution, a 1,000:1 static contrast ratio, and a 300 nit brightness.

NEC

$129
www.planaronline.com

Planar PL2210W

Planar's 22-inch PL2210W features 100mm VESA (Video Electronics Standards Association) mounting holes, so it's compatible with today's popular wall mount options. You'll also benefit from the display's 1,920 x 1,080 native resolution and widescreen 16:9 aspect ratio, which means you won't see bars on the top or side of the screen when playing most movies and video content.

PLANAR ™

$1,199.99
www.samsung.com

Samsung Series 9 Monitor

The Series 9 Monitor is built with attention to detail in mind. Samsung's Natural Color Expert technology helps provide accurate tonality for the over 1 billion colors that the monitor can display. The 27-inch display features a PLS (Plane Line Switching) panel that can produce a resolution of 2,560 x 1,440, which provides high detail for photo editing, video editing, and graphic design.

SAMSUNG

$269
www.sceptre.com

Sceptre E246W-1080P

The E246W-1080P features Sceptre's Sensitive Touch Control, in which the buttons are flush with the monitor's frame for a stylish look. The 24-inch widescreen monitor is ENERGY STAR 5.0-compliant, and it offers LED backlighting to reduce your energy bills. A native resolution of 1,920 x 1,080 provides you with the ability to watch content in Full HD, and the 2ms response time means quick actions won't blur across the screen.

SCEPTRE

Find It Online
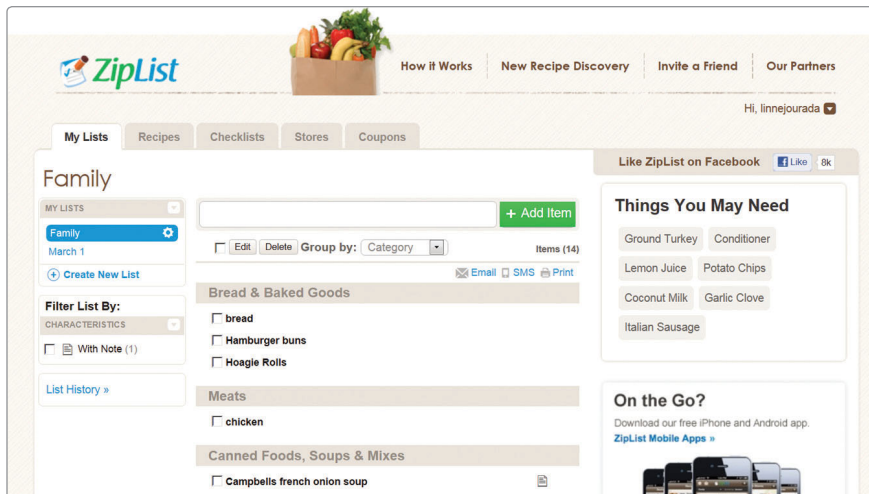
ZipList
get.ziplist.com

ZipList makes grocery shopping and meal planning fun and easy. Sign up for a free ZipList account to organize your grocery lists, create weekly meal plans, receive coupons, and sort your favorite recipes. Search the database of more than 300,000 recipes and save your favorites to your personal recipe box. ZipList partners with several popular food and chef sites, letting you save recipes with one click. You can also search recipes added by the ZipList user community, so you'll have no trouble finding whatever you're craving. Once you save a recipe, you can click to add all the ingredients to your shopping list. You can edit the list and remove items you may already have. Free apps for Android and iPhone let you take your grocery lists, checklists, and recipes wherever you go.

erly
erly.com

Erly bills itself as "a new social platform for organizing and sharing your personal content." Although most social networking platforms organize data around people first, Erly focuses on collecting information based on shared experiences. Using a model the company calls an "experience graph," users' content is organized around the shared experience that connects them. Erly's current product, called Events, lets users create a Web page for their event. Users can add event details, guest lists, invitations, photos, videos, and more. At any time, anyone on the Event guest list can add stories, photos, links, or other content. Guests can even import content from other services, such as Facebook, Flickr, YouTube, Vimeo, and more.

SaveUp
www.saveup.com

Meet the site that rewards you for saving. SaveUp is a free rewards program that helps people save money. Unlike most rewards programs, which give you credit for money you spend, Save-Up will give you credit for money you save. After signing up, you can securely link your financial accounts to the site, which will then monitor the balances. (SaveUp supports more than 18,000 institutions.) Every time you log in to your account, you can track and manage your spending and savings. SaveUp will award credits whenever your accounts show a deposit or a payment. You can then use those credits for chances to win cash and other prizes, such as gift cards, vacations, and electronics.

pingg
www.pingg.com

pingg is a free online service for sending professional-looking invitations, announcements, and greetings. Similar to most invitation sites, pingg can send your invites and ecards via

email and social networking sites. As an added bonus, the company can also arrange to print and mail your pinggs (for a reasonable cost per card). Choose from a large collection of designs by established and up-and-coming artists, or you can upload your own designs and photos to personalize your creations. For the free designs, you can send up to 250 invites. However, for $10 you can upgrade your project to pingg Plus, in which you can choose from even more designs from the pingg Plus Designers and send your pinggs to a guest list of up to 2,500 people. pingg also provides extra tools, such as guest list creation, RSVP management, and reminder messages.

Tagged

www.tagged.com

Tagged claims it is a "different kind of social network." While most such sites are aimed at helping people stay in touch with others they already know, Tagged focuses more on meeting new people. Once you sign up for an account, you can create a personal profile that reflects your interests, personality, hobbies, and more. Members can then match their personal tastes with other Tagged users and meet new friends. The company claims over 100 million members just waiting to be "tagged."

Pinterest

pinterest.com

Yes, you've heard of it. Pinterest is the Web-based virtual pinboard that was launched two years ago but has just recently taken the world by storm. It is a visual social network that lets you organize interesting things you find on the Web by "pinning" images to your "boards," which are arranged by themes. A Pin can be added by using the Pin It toolbar bookmarklet, or by uploading an image from your computer. When you Pin an item, the source link is always included. You can follow other users (and be followed), comment on their pins, and "repin,"

Events from Erly

It should be easier to plan and remember important moments in your life. Events from Erly allow you to create, in just seconds, a beautiful webpage for your event that brings together event information, invitations, and a multimedia album.

erly.com

www.saveup.com
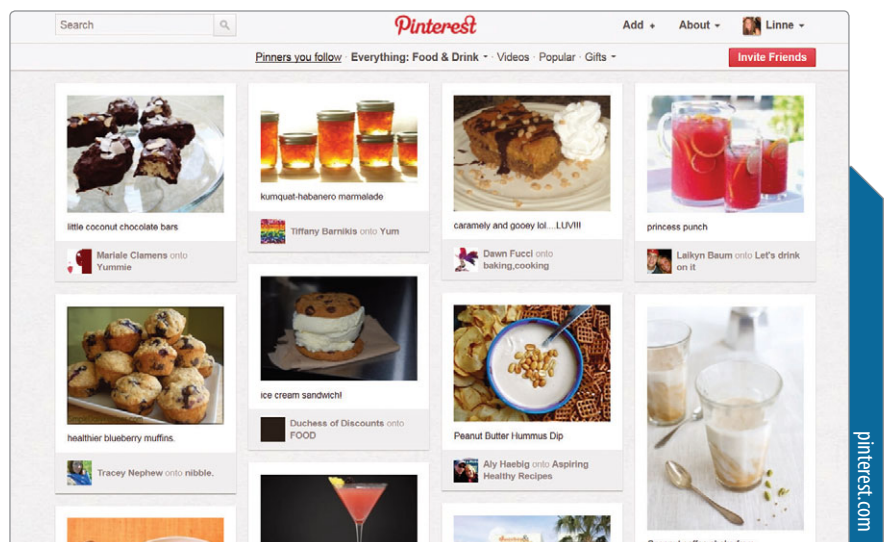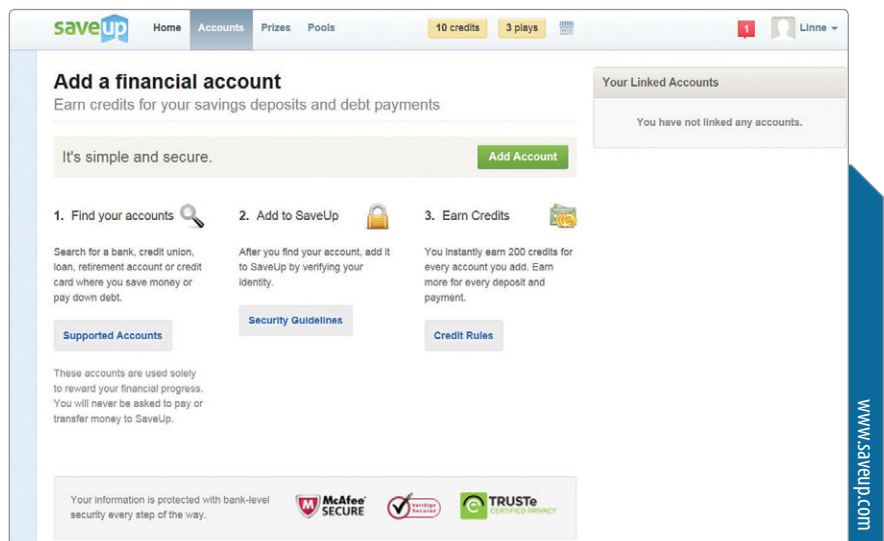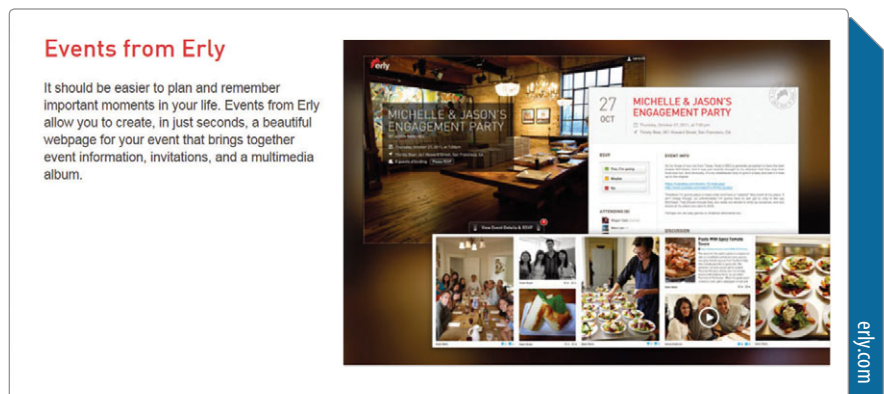
pinterest.com

them to your own board. To create a Pinterest account, users must receive an invite from a registered user or request an invite directly from the site. Once you receive an invitation and create an account, you can pin to your heart's content. Pinterest is a great way to gain and share inspiration for DIY projects, wedding plans, home improvement ideas, cooking, and more. ∎

Ovation

Each month, the *Smart Computing* staff gets to work with all kinds of new computing and consumer electronics products. Here are some of the most exciting products to cross our desks.

New Kindle/Kindle Touch Dinner Jacket

$35 | Timbuk2 | www.timbuk2.com

As sleek as today's mobile devices are, most of us no sooner receive our digital treasures than wrap them in a protective case of one kind or another. We do this in part to protect the device, but also to match our sense of style. A case that caught my eye recently is the New Kindle/Kindle Touch Dinner Jacket from Timbuk2. The case has a zippered pocket for your cash and ID, making it more useful than an ordinary case. The strap that secures the case (when closed) also serves to turn the case into a stand (when open) that rests your Kindle at an angle. That strap can also help you get a good grip on your Kindle for some one-handed reading. Elastic straps keep the Kindle firmly in place but also let you easily remove the device. Timbuk2 offers the Dinner Jacket in several colors.

Gliding Palm Support with Microban Protection

$23.99 | Fellowes | www.fellowes.com

If you've ever wished that your mouse wrist rest would move with the mouse, the Fellowes Gliding Palm Support is for you. Whereas most wrist rests for mice are stationary, the Gliding Palm Support goes where your mouse does. The wrist rest attaches to your mouse via a small, flexible harness, which has adhesive to ensure a secure grip. The gel rest has a groove in the center to ease the pressure created when it carries the weight of your wrist. An important feature is the Microban antimicrobial material, which is designed to keep your rest clean and germ-free. The wrist rest also includes a like-colored mousepad that supports laser and optical mice.

Personal Technology

Image S4i In-Ear Headphones

$99.99 | Klipsch | www.klipsch.com

If your ears are begging for a new set of headphones, the Klipsch S4i is worth a look. The S4i combines quality and comfort and offers compelling extras for iPhone and iPod users. An in-line remote control system provides full control of your iPhone and iPod music and video content, while a mic button lets you answer and end phone calls. In terms of sound, micro speakers in each earpiece help provide premium sound quality, and the 360-degree mic has echo cancellation technology for clear phone calls. For added comfort, the S4i features patented oval ear tips that also provide extra noise isolation. The S4i headphones are available in black or white, and they include a carrying case, four ear tip sizes, and a clothing clip.

Cube

$69.99 | Logitech | www.logitech.com

A mouse that doubles as a presenter, the Logitech Cube is the perfect companion to those who travel frequently and spend a lot of time presenting in meetings. And, with its pocket-sized shape and unique design, the Cube will certainly turn heads in the boardroom. Place the Cube on a hard surface to use it as a traditional mouse; once you pick it up, it becomes a presenter, letting you freely walk around the room and scroll through PowerPoint slides. To left-click, tap the top-front area of the mouse, and to right-click, tap in the middle. You can scroll by dragging a finger along the top main panel. When in presenter mode, you can use the front click to advance through slides and flip the Cube over to click and reverse slides. The Cube features an On-Off switch to help conserve battery power, and a light indicates when the power is getting low and needs recharging. The Cube uses Logitech's tiny Unifying receiver that plugs into your notebook's USB port and can connect up to six Unifying-compatible devices, so you never have to remove the receiver. The Cube comes in black or white.
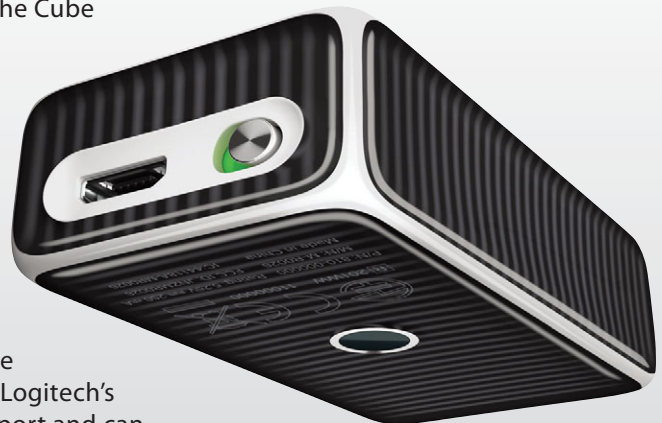
What You Need To Know

Fitness Monitors

/// Some fitness monitors, such as the Withings Blood Pressure Monitor ($129; www.withings.com), interface directly with your smartphone.

Whether you're new to exercise or a fitness fanatic, fitness monitors are designed to help keep you on task, optimize your workouts, manage your calorie intake, and ultimately achieve your goals. Fitness monitors come in all shapes and sizes, and they vary widely in their features and capabilities. In the pages that follow, we'll explore the types of fitness monitors available, what they can do for you, and even highlight a few models to give your routine a kick in the pants.

To Connect Or Not To Connect

We'll get to the different types of fitness monitors later, but there's one feature that generally defines their use: online connectivity. Although most entry-level fitness monitors lack online capabilities, chronograph and altimeter watches are most commonly offline devices. Alternatively, pedometers, heart rate monitors, speed and distance monitors, and fitness assessment monitors tend to have online capabilities, especially the more advanced models.

Online features, like the devices themselves, vary widely and can include the ability to share your progress and milestones on your favorite social network, track and plan your daily diet and meals, report your progress, and provide access to Web-based training programs. Some models automatically and wirelessly upload statistics, while others require wired connections and periodic manual uploads.

/// Many fitness monitors, such as the MOTOACTV GPS fitness tracker (starts at $249.99; motoactv.com) has a wrist strap accessory (sold separately) so you can wear it like a watch.

Chronograph & Altimeter Watches

Chronograph and altimeter watches are most commonly worn on the wrist and look very similar to watches. Basic features include the ability to display the current time, date, a daily alarm, and two or more Time Zones, much like a typical watch. As a fitness accessory, these devices also include a stopwatch, the ability to track multiple laps, and a countdown timer. A chronograph watch generally supports all of the above and is ideal for runners, swimmers (water resistance is common), and walkers.

An altimeter watch often includes all of the above but also measures barometric altitude (height above sea level or ground calculated with atmospheric pressure input), temperature, altitude, compass direction, and barometric pressure. These devices are more useful for trail runners, hikers, skiers, and climbers. Some advanced models also include rate of ascent or descent, total ascent and descent, an altitude alarm, altimeter and barometer lock (lets you define the ground level to determine a more accurate altitude), and weather alarm.

Pedometers

A pedometer, or step monitor, is a device that is designed to track the number of steps you've taken and the distance you've traveled. Many pedometers have the same features of a chronograph watch. The most basic pedometers, which simply track steps and distance, can be very inexpensive. The more advance pedometers often feature built-in GPS, the ability to track your running or walking route, and
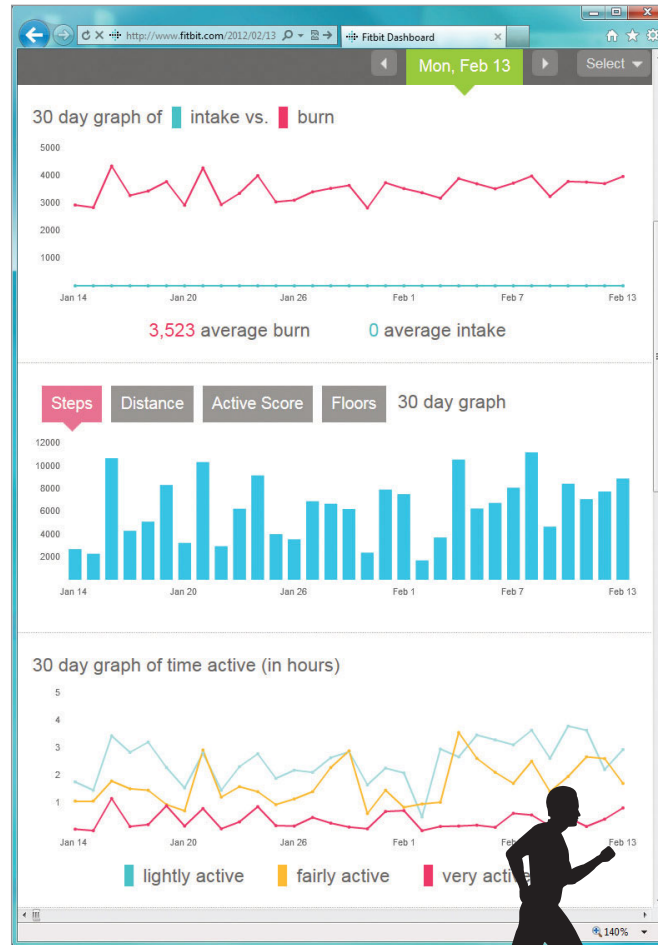
/// An online dashboard such as this can show you how you're progressing toward your goals.

support for online connectivity for fitness tracking purposes.

Heart Rate Monitors

One of the largest categories of fitness monitors is heart rate monitors.

The most basic models often perform the same functions as a chronograph watch but typically work with a chest sensor strap and add the ability to track and display heart rate, target heart rate zones, average heart rate, and recovery heart rate. The more advanced heart rate monitors have online features and can track your heart rate over time, as well as calories burned and multiple heart rate zones.

Speed & Distance Monitors

A speed and distance monitor (SDM) is designed to provide real-time feedback on your speed distance, and the duration of your workout. Most SDMs use GPS to calculate the data, but some also interface with a foot pod to track speed and distance. If GPS reception is poor, a foot pod will be the more accurate of the two methods. Some advanced SDMs also double as heart rate monitors.

Fitness Assessment Monitors

The monitors we've covered so far generally help you track various statistics in real time, while you're working out. Fitness assessment monitors, on

Buying Advice

With so many choices available, it's easy to get overwhelmed when you're in the market for a fitness monitor. Follow these simple tips to determine the right monitor for your lifestyle.

- Determine which monitoring capabilities are most important to you and choose a device that offers them.
- Extras such as music playback, fashionable designs, and adjustable

straps ensure you get a lot of mileage out of your fitness monitor.
- Devices that automatically sync your stats wirelessly are the height of convenience.

the other hand, consist of any device that reports your results and helps you track your progress. These devices can measure your weight, body mass index, body fat percentage, fat loss, blood pressure, and oxygen saturation levels.

Keep Connected

PC connectivity can bring a lot of benefits to your fitness routine. Here are three devices that connect with your computer in different ways to help get you into shape and make sure you stay there.

BodyMedia LINK Armband. The LINK Armband from BodyMedia ($199; www.bodymedia.com) uses Bluetooth wireless technology to transmit near real-time caloric burn data to your smartphone.

Fitbit Ultra. The Fitbit Ultra ($99.95; www.fitbit.com) is a device that tracks steps, distance, number of flights of stairs traveled, sleep efficiency, and more. It also wirelessly syncs your data to your PC and tracks your results on a personalized online dashboard.

The Biggest Loser SLIMCOACH. The SLIMCOACH ($129.95; www.biggestloserslimcoach.com) senses, tracks, and analyzes your movements in real time and uploads your results to your computer so you can see how far you've come. Online features include interactive graphs and access to the MYTRAK Online Health Community.

Finally Fit

The experts agree: The best way to get fit is to get into a routine, get encouragement, and stick with it. Each one of the devices we covered makes the job of tracking your progress easy so you can focus more of your efforts on staying active and eating well. Even better, these devices make getting fit fun. ▮

/// The BodyMedia LINK Armband helps you balance your caloric intake and burn.

/// The Fitbit Ultra displays words of encouragement every time you pick it up.

/// The SLIMCOACH tracks your progress and keeps you connected to people who share your goals.

Tips & Tricks

Know The Lingo

Abbreviations for phrases and jargon reduce the amount of typing you need to do when chatting via instant messenger or text messages. Here are some of the most common abbreviations.

AFK

Stands for "away from keyboard" to let someone know you're not in front of your computer right now.

AFAIK

Short for "as far as I know," to indicate that the comment is true to the best of your knowledge.

BBIAB or BRB

Use these abbreviations to let the recipient know that you'll be away for a short while with BBIAB (be back in a bit) or BRB (be right back).

GJ

This abbreviation of "good job" is a quick way to tell someone he did well.

IDK

Short for "I don't know," and used when you are unable to answer a question or query.

IMHO

Demonstrate some modesty before a statement by saying "in my humble opinion."

JK

Abbreviation of "just kidding," and tells the recipient that you were just joking around.

KK

This shorthand indicates that the message has been acknowledged.

L8R or TTYL

The first is shorthand for "later" or "see you later" when saying goodbye, or if you plan on communicating in a bit, you can use TTYL (talk to you later).

LOL

Let your chat buddy know his comment was funny enough to make you "laugh out loud."

NVM

Short for "never mind," which tells the recipient to disregard the last comment.

PLZ

When asking for help, it's always nice to say "please."

SFSG

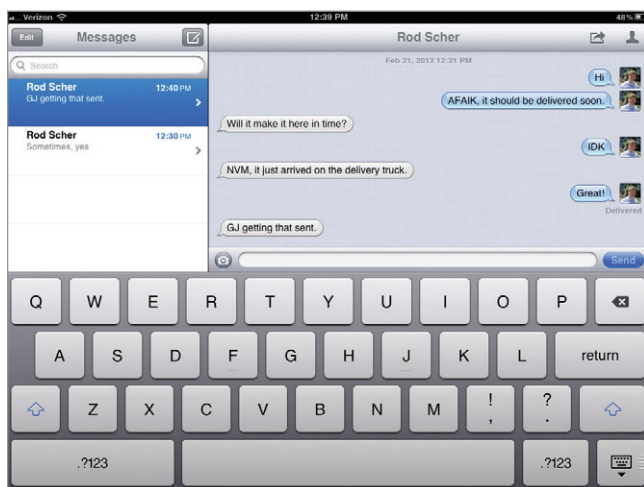Let your recipient know that everything is OK thus far by saying "so far, so good."

TBH

You can let someone know you are serious about a statement by leading with TBH, or "to be honest."

TYVM

This is an abbreviation for "thank you very much."

Abbreviating long phrases helps reduce the amount of typing you do.

There are a number of abbreviations for letting people know when and if you'll be around.

How To

Put A Screen Protector On Your Phone

Skinit's Protection Screen can be installed in seconds, and the two mask design means you won't leave any fingerprints behind.

Smartphone screens are typically built with tempered glass designed to withstand the bumps (and occasional drops) that happen with daily use. However, the toughened glass is not impervious to scratches that can mar your screen and make it difficult to see text and other content. To protect your screen from damage, you can put on a screen protector, which is a protective, transparent strip of plastic that securely sticks to the screen and absorbs the scratches.

Apply Your Screen Protector

Applying a screen protector is an easy process. The few minutes you spend on the protector are well worth the day-to-day protection that it provides for your phone.

1. First, you'll need to select a screen protector that's compatible with your smartphone. Many screen protectors are designed to suit a specific phone, and most even feature cutouts for the buttons and speakers on the front screen. Generic options are also available, but you'll need to ensure the screen protec-

tor is large enough for your model of phone.
2. Begin by cleaning the screen with a microfiber cloth. You may also want some screen cleaner to ensure the surface is free of finger prints, lint, and other material that would appear as a blemish under the screen protector.
3. Follow the included instructions. For example, the Skinit Protection Screen for the iPhone 4 ($14.99 for a 2-pack; www.skinit.com) features two masks with the protective film stored in between. To install, you simply pull the tab from the back mask and line up the protector with the phone screen. Then, peel off the top mask and use the applicator to eliminate any air bubbles. ∎

Here are examples of custom Skinit skins with the *Smart Computing* logo ($19.99).

You can also cover other parts of your phone to further protect against scratches. Some companies, such as Skinit (www.skinit.com), allow you to create custom covers for your mobile devices.

PestControl

REMOVE STUBBORN BUGS

If a virus slips past your computer's defenses, it's time to roll up your sleeves and go after the bug yourself. Each month, we tell you how to remove some of the most disruptive malware on the Internet.

MALWAREWIPE/ PESTTRAP

DESCRIPTION: Few malicious software infections are more annoying than adware and spyware. MalwareWipe and PestTrap are classic examples, as they pepper you with urgent instructions to pay money to remove alleged virus and spyware infections. These "infections" are actually files that have been falsely flagged as malicious by MalwareWipe and PestTrap. To better drive home these phony sales pitches, both programs have the ability to pester you with false warnings about the malware infections on your machine, sometimes using an "always on top" alert window that you can't minimize. MalwareWipe and PestTrap are also capable of sneaky background activity, such as monitoring your Internet access, hijacking your Web browser, and changing system files—all without your knowledge or permission.

How To Remove MalwareWipe/PestTrap

You'll need to use an Internet security suite that offers virus and spyware protection, such as ESET's Smart Security 5 (price starts at $59.99 per year for one PC; www.eset.com). If you suspect your system has been infected by either of these programs, simply run a scan with ESET Smart Security, which will identify the threat and automatically remove the malicious software from your system.

To launch an antivirus scan with ESET Smart Security 5, go to the ESET Smart Security control panel and select Computer scan. You can select either Smart scan or Custom scan. If you need to run a scan immediately and don't have an antivirus program installed, you can use ESET's Free Online Virus Scan (www.eset.com/online-scanner) that works through your Web browser. Companies experiencing persistent and widespread infection by MalwareWipe, PestTrap, or any other malware may want to consider ESET's Malware Removal service (www.eset.com/us/business/services). ∎
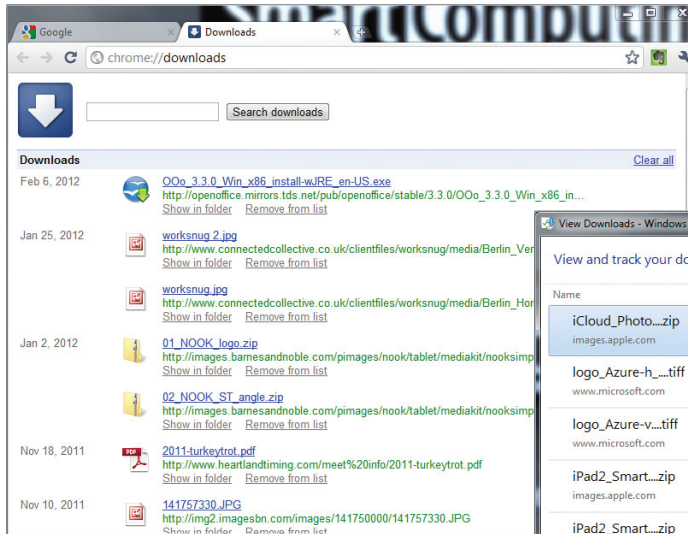
ESET Smart Security provides you with antivirus, antispyware, antispam, and firewall protection.
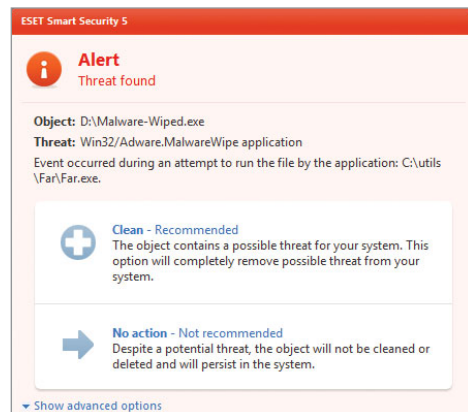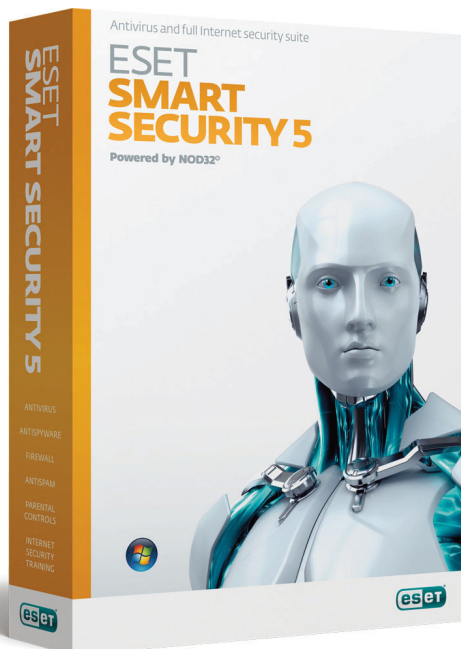

ESET Smart Security 5 can be configured to notify you when threats are found during a scan, and with MalwareWipe, you'd see a window such as this one.

Tips From The Help Desk

Common Tech Questions

Your browser can show you a list of the files you've recently downloaded. These windows usually also provide a link to settings that control the default location your browser downloads to.
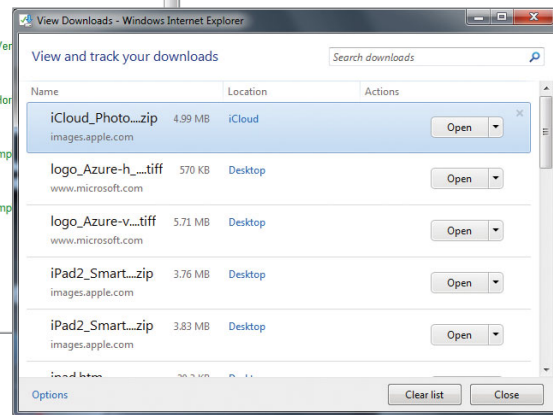
QUESTION:

I know I downloaded a file, but I can't find it anywhere on my computer. Where is it?

A: When you download a file from a website, your browser either drops it into a default folder or asks you where you want to save the file. First, we'll show you how to display files you've recently downloaded. Next, we'll show you a fast way to find any file—which is particularly handy if you used the Save As feature and can't remember where you saved the file.

Default Downloads folder. You can easily find files that have been downloaded to the browser's default Downloads folder. In Internet Explorer 9, click Tools, Internet Options, and then click Tools, View Downloads. IE will display a View Downloads window that shows your recent downloads and provides actions you can take (typically Open or Open with). In Chrome, click the wrench icon and then click Downloads. As with IE, Chrome displays your recent downloads and provides options for managing them.

Find a file fast. If you know the name (or even part of the name) of the file you're looking for, click the Start button and then enter the name into the Search Programs And Files folder. When you press the ENTER key, Windows will scour your hard drive for the file and display a list of files related to that name. You can find your file here. Right-click it and then click Open File Location to see the file in its folder.

QUESTION:

How can I customize Send To?

A: Send To is a great tool for quickly moving files and folders to other locations. Simply right-click the file folder, click Send To, and then choose a destination from the list
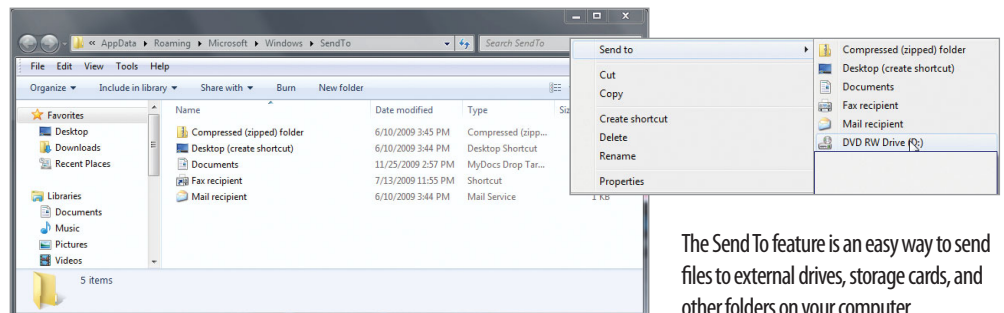
The Send To feature is an easy way to send files to external drives, storage cards, and other folders on your computer.

that appears. Generally, this location list includes any storage devices on your PC, including any attached external drives, such as your USB thumb drive or the memory card you popped into the memory card reader last week. (So that's where the camera card was all week!)

The list likely also includes Mail Recipient (which attaches the file to a message in your default email client, if you use an email program instead of a Web-based email service) and some commonly used folders, such as Documents. If you want to add a different folder to your Send To list, click the Start button and then enter %appdata%/microsoft/windows/sendto. Press the ENTER key and you'll see a window displaying several shortcuts.

Now you'll need to create a shortcut for the folder that you want to add to your Send To menu. Open a new Windows Explorer window (for example, click Start, Documents or Start, Computer) and navigate to the folder—but don't open it. If you do, click the Back button (the left arrow) so that you are in the folder that contains your target folder. Right-click the target folder and click Create Shortcut. A shortcut to that folder will appear next to it. Now, drag that shortcut to the Send To folder and drop it in. That folder will now show up in your Send To menu whenever you right-click a file or folder and click Send To.

QUESTION:

Today's Windows Update didn't install correctly. What can I do?

A: Windows Update is a Windows feature that downloads and installs patches (known as updates) for Windows. The patches generally solve problems, improve security, or
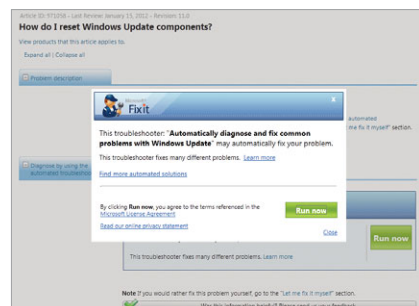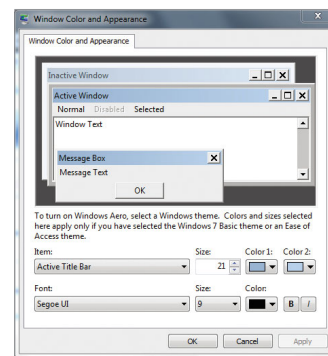

The Microsoft Fix it tool may solve your Windows Update problem. It's free, easy to use, and gives you as much (or as little) control as you prefer.

add functionality. It's important (for the safety of your computer and your privacy) to keep Windows up-to-date, so a problem with Windows Update is a problem worth solving.

An easy way to help Windows Update recover from a bad installation is to reset the Windows Update components. Visit Microsoft Support online, run a tool provided by Microsoft, and your problem may well be solved. Start by visiting support.microsoft.com/kb/971058. When the Microsoft Fix it window appears, click the green Run Now button. (If it doesn't appear, you'll find this button on the website.) If you

agree to Microsoft's terms, click the Accept button. When the Windows Update page appears, you'll have the option to let the program detect problems and fix them immediately, or to detect the problems, list them for you, and let you select the ones you want it to fix.

QUESTION:

The text on my Desktop is suddenly blurry and has a shadow. What happened, and how do I change it back?

Changing the fonts for icons and menus is easy. In fact, you can preview your changes before you apply them.

A: It sounds as though your Windows fonts have changed. Changing them back will take a little time, but it isn't hard to do. Right-click your Desktop and click Personalize. When the Control Panel opens, click Window Color. At the next page, click Advanced Appearance Settings. This opens the Window Color And Appearance page. Click the Item drop-down menu and choose the item you'd like to change and adjust the font size and colors. You'll see the changes appear in the preview window above these controls. You can also change the font. Chances are, the font you were using originally was Segoe UI. Click OK to save your changes. ▮

BUYER'S GUIDE TOPICS

Each *Smart Computing* issue includes tips, reviews, and information about a variety of topics. However, each issue also has a featured group of articles about a selected topic. Below is a list of topics from the previous year. As a *Smart Computing* subscriber, you have access to all of our archived articles at www.smartcomputing.com.

Install A New Power Supply

A Step-By-Step Guide

Cooler Master's GX-450W power supply offers a power efficiency of 85% and is 80 Plus Bronze-certified.

The Cooler Master CM 690 II Advanced computer case offers a variety of helpful features for routing power cables.

The power supply provides your computer with the energy necessary to operate. If the PSU (power supply unit) in your PC fails or new, power-hungry components make an upgrade necessary, it's fairly simple to install a new one in your desktop computer. Here, we'll take you through the installation process and provide some tips for routing the cables to improve airflow and make hardware easier to access.

Power Supply Selection

One of the key specifications to consider when selecting a power supply is the amount of wattage it can provide. There are a number of online utilities, such as Cooler Master's Power Calculator (www.coolermaster.outervision. com), you can use to determine the number of watts your computer is likely to use. It's a good idea to invest in a power supply that provides at least 100 more watts than your expected usage so you'll have headroom for heavy loads and minor upgrades.

Once you've selected a wattage, you can compare PSU options. Most modern power supplies offer enough connections for any basic build, but if your PC has multiples of a single component, such as hard drives or optical drives, ensure the power supply has enough compatible connections to support your needs. For the instructions in this article, we selected a Cooler Master GX-450W ($59.99; www.coolermaster-usa.com) power supply, which provides us with five SATA (Serial Advanced Technology Attachment; for modern hard drives, SSDs, and optical drives) connectors, three Molex (for legacy HDDs and internal fans) connectors, and one PCI-E (Peripheral Component Interconnect Express; for a graphics card) connector.

The Installation

Installing your power supply won't take long. Grab a Phillips-head screwdriver and follow these easy steps.

1. **Prepare your workspace.** Touch the metal in your computer's case (to discharge static electricity) before working on the PC. Also, check that the power supply isn't plugged into an outlet.

2. **Remove the old power supply.** If you are replacing a power supply, detach all cords from the components inside the computer, such as the motherboard, graphics card, and all drives. Remove the screws at the back of the case and slide the PSU free.

3. Place the PSU inside the PC case. The power supply will need to be installed next to the rectangular opening at the rear bottom or rear top of the case. In our Cooler Master CM 690 II Advanced ($99.99) case, the power supply cutout is located at the bottom, and there are vents in the bottom of the case, which allows the power supply's fan to pull fresh, cool outside air into the unit and exhaust it outside the case. Note that if your case doesn't offer a vent at the top or bottom, you'll want the power supply's fan to point towards the inside of the case (not butted against the flat metal chassis), so the fan will be able to move air across internal parts of the power supply.

4. Attach the PSU with screws. Use the screws supplied with your power supply. Secure the screws firmly, but don't overdo it.

5. Route the power cables. You're ready to route the cables to the hardware inside the case. If this is a new build, we suggest that you place the motherboard onto the case's motherboard tray to help you see where you'll need to run the cables, such as the main power 20+4-pin and 4+4-pin CPU cables. Many new cases, including Cooler Master's CM 690 II Advanced, feature holes with rubber grommets to let you easily conceal cables behind the motherboard tray. Besides being aesthetically pleasing, neatly routed cables help to maintain consistent airflow throughout the case and make the interior components easier to reach. For the devices in the front portion of the case, such as the hard drive, optical drive, memory card readers, and fans, it's best to route the cables behind the motherboard tray and bunch the cables behind the drive cages. This method will both conceal the cable and make it easy to connect when you add the components.

Wrap Things Up

Once all of the power cables are connected to the computer's internal components, your case should be pretty tidy. Some users like to take a few minutes to bundle some cables using Velcro ties or zip ties, so everything will stay securely in place when you move the computer. ▮

⌃ The power supply attaches to the rectangular opening in the rear of your case.
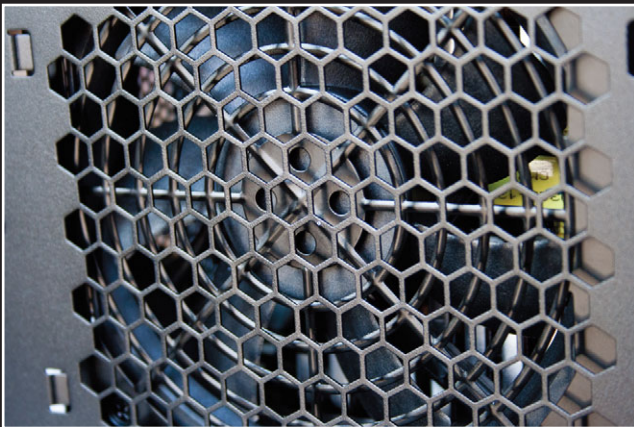
⌃ Our case features a bottom vent for the power supply, so we were able to position the fan facing the base of the case.

❮ Take advantage of the openings in the motherboard tray to conceal cables. You can typically run the cables behind the motherboard tray to create a clutter-free interior.
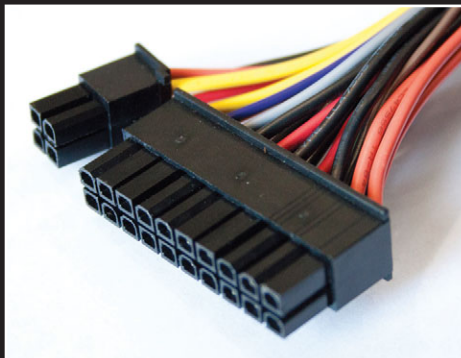
❮ The main power cable provides energy to the system's motherboard.

Maintenance Basics

Fight Icon Blight

When we have a file or application that we need constant access to, it often ends up being pinned to our PC's Desktop or (our mobile device's Home screen) because it's the most visible and easily accessible location. But as the icons accumulate, the resulting clutter can turn what used to be a clear pattern of organization into a puzzling pile of shortcuts, folders, applications, and downloads. Here, we'll cover how to clean up and reorganize your Windows Desktop and mobile device Home screens to improve your productivity.
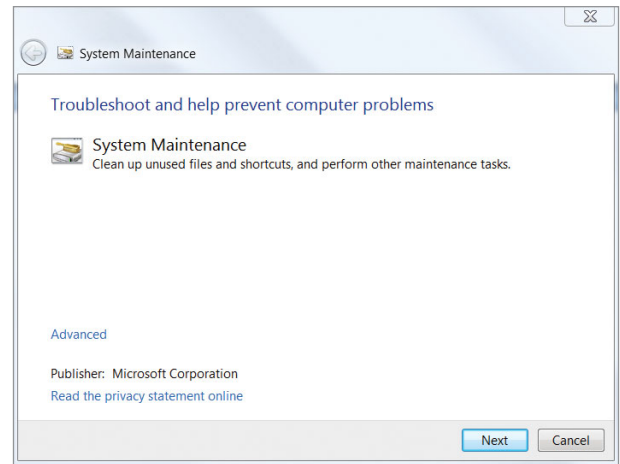
System Maintenance in Windows 7 can help you remove unused icons from your desktop.

Windows 7

Back in the days of Windows XP, Microsoft included a tool called the Desktop Cleanup Wizard. There's no such tool in Windows 7, but there is a System Maintenance feature that you can access by clicking the Start menu, typing System Maintenance into the search field, and selecting Perform Recommended Tasks Automatically. At the System Maintenance window, click the Advanced button and remove the check mark from the Apply Repairs Automatically section, because you may want to keep some of the files, shortcuts, and other links that System Maintenance may change. Click the Next button and Windows 7 will look for items like broken shortcuts, unused desktop items, and error reports that are taking up disk space.
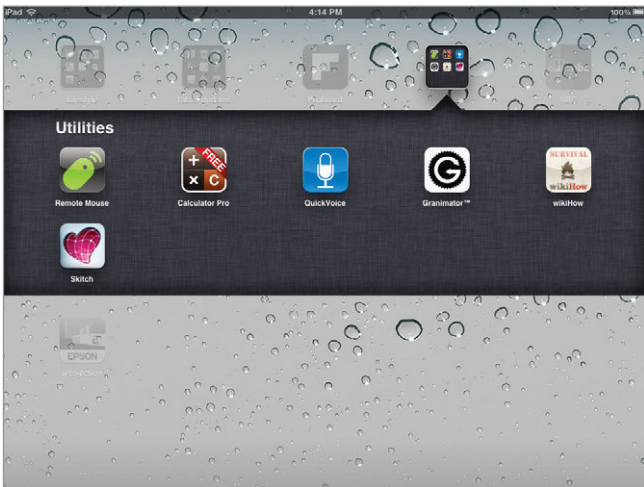
You can reduce the number of icons on your iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch by putting similar apps into folders.

When you hold down an icon in Android, a trash can, like you see at the bottom of the screen here, will appear.

Android offers a variety of premade and custom folders you can create.

iOS

Apple provides the iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch with up to 11 screens to organize your applications. You can move an icon by holding it down until it begins to jiggle. Then, you'll have the option to drag the icon to the right edge of the screen until a new screen appears, and you can drag the icon to a location that works best for you. It's also possible to organize the icons on your home screen into a folder. To create a folder, touch and hold an icon until the Home screen jiggles. Then, drag the icon onto another icon that you want to include in the folder. iOS will automatically create a folder and name it. Tap the name field to provide the folder name you prefer. To add another icon, hold it down until the icon jiggles and drag it into the folder. Press the Home button to save your changes.

Android

Similar to iOS, most Android devices provide you with several screens where you can arrange and categorize your app icons. Within Android, you can delete an icon from a screen simply by holding it down until the application launcher becomes a trash can (the app will remain in the list of icons that appear when you click the application launcher). Then, you can drag the app icon into the trash can. You can move an app by performing a long press and dragging the app to the side of the screen and holding it until you get to the screen where you want to place it.

It's also possible to add folders to an Android home screen. Long press an empty space on the home screen and select Folder. In the Select Folder window, you'll be able to choose from a variety of options, including New Folder, Contacts With Phone Numbers, Received List From Bluetooth, and Recent Documents. As you can see, many options offer preset contents, while New Folder is the option you'll want to select for custom files and shortcuts. To rename the folder, long press the title bar. ❚

UPDATES & DRIVERS

When it comes to protecting your PC, installing the latest software updates is one of the most important steps you can take. Software updates fix bugs, plug security holes, and sometimes even add new features. Drivers can also solve problems and improve performance, but many users prefer to install new drivers only when a device isn't working properly. Here are the updates and drivers you should know about this month.
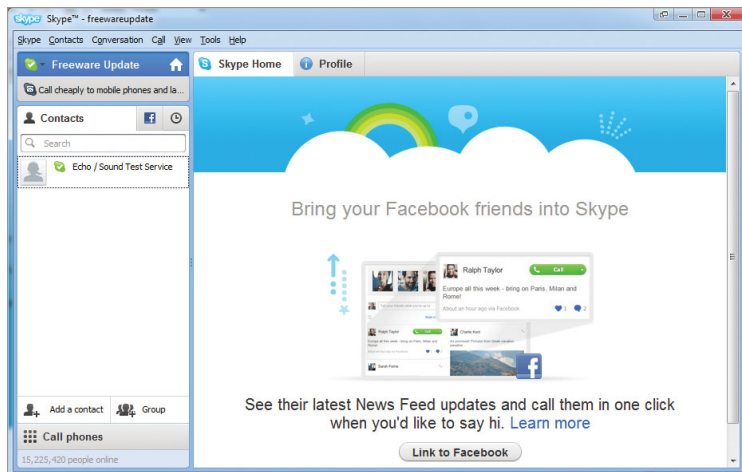
AMD Catalyst 12.1 Drivers

With version 12.1 of its Catalyst software suite, AMD delivers a new display driver (version 8.93), a new chipset driver for AMD-based motherboards, and an upgrade to its Catalyst Control Center/Vision Engine Control Center, which is a tool to help you manage your AMD hardware. The 8.93 display driver offers an upgrade for AMD's Radeon lineup that spans from the HD 2400 Series up to the HD 6900 Series. The chipset upgrade applies to motherboards using AMD's Radeon 3000, 3100, 3200, 3300, 4200, 4250, and 4290 Series integrated graphics. AMD indicates that the new drivers provide you with enhancements to power, performance, and reliability. You can download Catalyst 12.1 from tinyurl.com/85w9by.
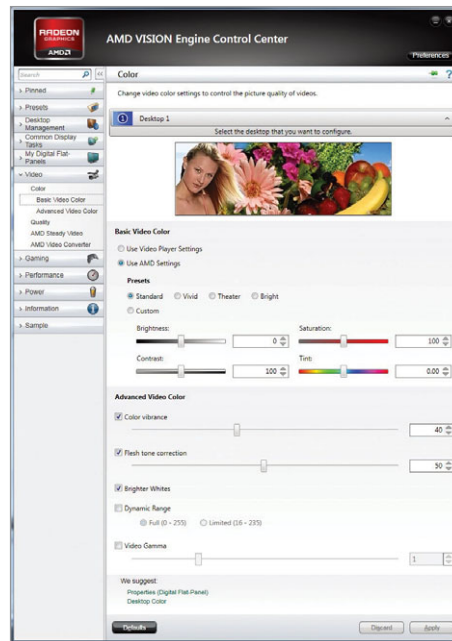
AMD's Catalyst 12.1 provides AMD hardware owners with a new display driver, chipset driver, and upgrades the Catalyst Control Center.

Skype 5.8 integrates with Facebook, so you can video chat with your Facebook friends, even if they aren't Skype users.

Skype 5.8

The newest release of Skype For Windows offers a number of significant improvements, including beta support for audio- and video-calling with Facebook contacts—even if the contact isn't a Skype user. To start a video with a Facebook friend, select the person in your Skype contact list and select Video Call. Skype 5.8 also supports 1080p HD video quality. (Logitech's c920 Web cam is required to video chat in 1080p.) Group screen sharing is another new feature, and it lets you share an application window (or an entire screen) with those in a conference call. A Push-to-Talk feature lets you quickly mute and unmute your microphone. Download a copy of Skype 5.8 from tinyurl.com/3nm7rxh.

Tech Support

Google Chrome

With the latest Stable release of Google Chrome, the search giant has added a feature in which the Address bar will autocomplete URLs for the websites you're most likely to visit, based on your browsing history. Google Chrome has also been set up to cache your favorite pages, so when you open a favorite, the website will have been pre-rendered to make it appear nearly instantly. The newest edition of Chrome also features added security for protection from downloads that have been embedded with malicious code. Before you download a file, Chrome will check it against a list of know malicious files. You can download the most recent version from www.google.com/chrome.
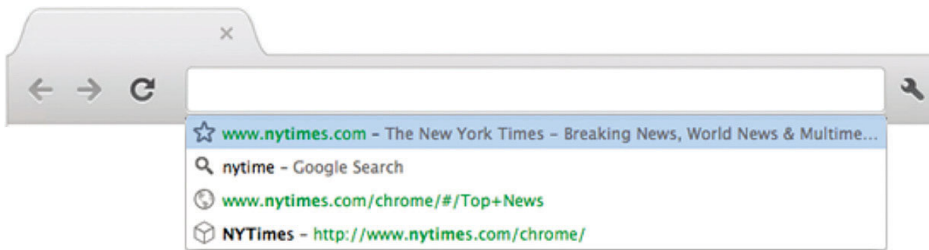
One of the new features in Google Chrome are URL suggestions, based on your web browsing history, when you enter a search keyword.

BeyondTrust PowerBroker Desktops 5.2

The 5.2 edition of BeyondTrust PowerBroker Desktops automates groups policy integration, so you'll have control over which applications can and can't run on the computers in your network. You'll even be able to target individual computers or a group of computers to limit approved applications to only a given set of employees. Version 5.2 lets you easily eliminate admin rights and control the execution of the applications, software installed, ActiveX controls, and system tasks that can be run by a given worker, which will keep employees productive and protect your network from viruses. You can download a free trial of PowerBroker Desktops 5.2 from tinyurl.com/83wvhcr.

SlimCleaner 2.0

SlimWare announced version 2.0 of SlimCleaner. The PC optimization utility now offers a cleaning engine that is based on ratings and feedback of existing users to help you improve your computer's performance. For example, there are program descriptions and community ratings for the applications on your PC, and you can adjust those applications' settings to improve the quickness of your computer. Version 2.0 of SlimCleaner also includes a Registry Cleaner to speed boot-up times and improve reliability. You can search the Consumer Software listings for popular alternatives to the programs currently installed on your PC. A download link is available from SlimWare's website at tinyurl.com/875kg9y.

LibreOffice 3.5

LibreOffice is an open-source productivity suite, and the developer recently released version 3.5, which features a variety of upgrades. There's a new built-in grammar checker that's available in English and other languages. Within the spreadsheet application Calc, you'll find a new multi-line input bar where you can easily enter content that would span over multiple fields. To check out the entire rundown of upgrades, visit tinyurl.com/7fmzlzn.
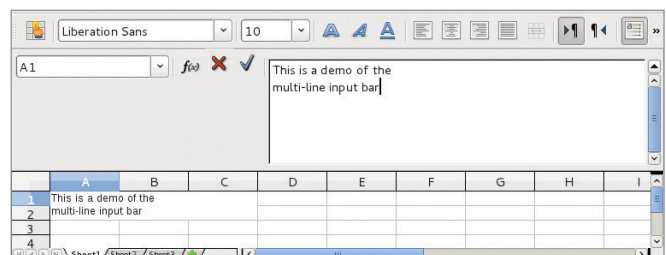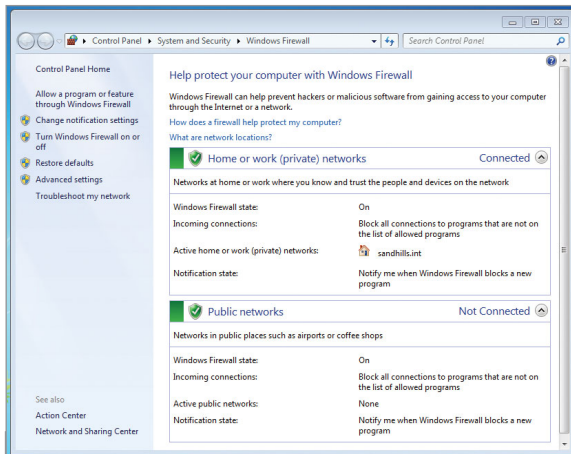

The Calc utility of LibreOffice 3.5 includes a new multi-line input bar for convenient spreadsheet entry.

SECURITY

Protect Your Computer

One of the most common questions we receive from readers is: "What do I need to protect my computer?" This month, we tell you what you need to provide a strong defense against malicious programs and users.


You can add an important measure of protection to your PC's defenses right now by enabling Windows Firewall. It's a basic software firewall, but it's easy and free.

Hardware Firewall

One of the most important things you can do to protect your computers is to put a router between the computers and your broadband Internet connection. A typical wireless router has a built-in hardware firewall, which uses security measures such as SPI (stateful packet inspection), a technology that compares incoming and outgoing data, to block malicious users and malware from accessing your network. Your router also hides your PCs behind its own address, making it harder for malicious users to reach them. Use a router, even if you have only one PC. (If you buy a wireless router, but don't intend to use the wireless radio, use its settings to disable or encrypt the signal so you aren't sharing your Internet connection with neighbors and snoops.)
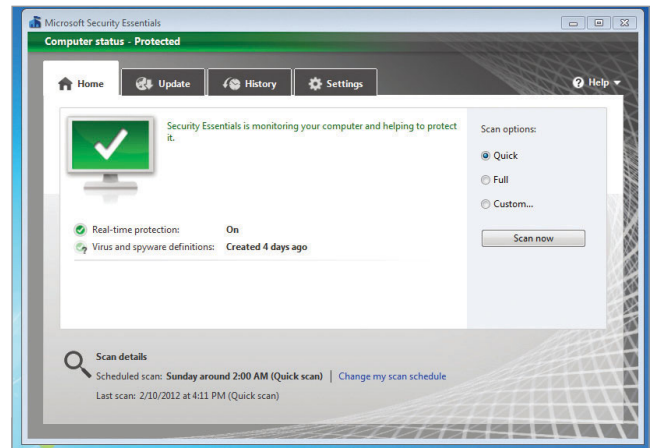
Microsoft Security Essentials is a solid antimalware application. You can download it free and install it today. This software won't conflict with Windows Firewall, so feel free to run them simultaneously.

Software Firewall

A software firewall is an important layer of protection for an individual PC—and it won't interfere with your hardware firewall. Keep in mind that a software firewall protects only the computer on which it resides (unlike the firewall in your router, which protects all PCs on the network), which means you'll need to run a software firewall on each PC that you own. You can enable a basic but serviceable software firewall right now: Windows Firewall is built into Windows 7. Click Start, enter "Windows Firewall" in the search field, and click Windows Firewall. You can enable it from this menu. For advanced features, consider buying a third-party software firewall.
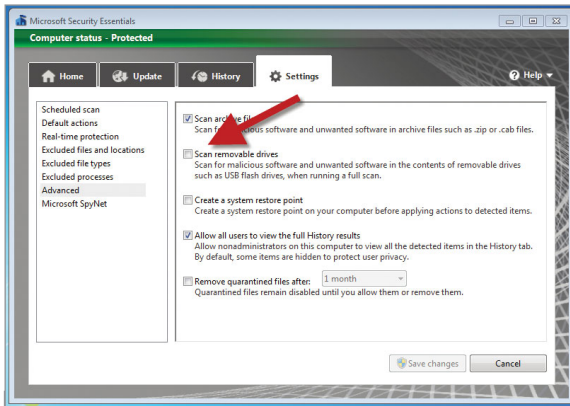
Open the Settings tab in Microsoft Security Essentials to make it scan your external drives when you plug them in. This is a good feature for people who often use USB flash drives.

Malware Detection

Virus, spyware, and other programs and materials designed for malicious activity (collectively referred to as "malware") are rampant on the Web. Your PC will almost certainly come into contact with these threats, despite your hardware and software firewall. To protect your PC, install antivirus software. For basic protection, you can download Microsoft's free antivirus software, Microsoft Security Essentials, at windows.microsoft.com.) Windows Defender (www .microsoft.com) is a free program from Microsoft that protects against spyware. You don't need Windows Defender if you have Microsoft Security Essentials, as that program handles the same functions (and more). In fact, Microsoft Security Essentials will likely disable Windows Defender.

The Benefits Of The Bundle

As we mentioned earlier, many security software publishers offer Internet security suites that bundle multiple anti-malware products into one unit. This is an easy way to protect your PC, as you have a single program to install, to keep up-to-date, and to troubleshoot when problems arise. Also, a security suite usually lets you manage the options for all of its components from a single dashboard. If you're locking down a PC for a non-techie friend or family member (or want a simple solution for yourself), a bundle may well be worth the price. ❙

Browser Safety Myths

With demand high for information about users' online browsing and shopping habits, tracking companies are more motivated than ever to invade your privacy. Keeping your habits and personal information out of their hands is a challenge. Here are a few myths that lead some users to lower their guard.

Visiting only mainstream sites helps me avoid malware. It's tempting to think that so long as you stick to websites owned by well-known organizations, you won't run into an infected website. After all, your favorite news site or bank wouldn't purposely host malware. The truth is that malicious users often breach the security of popular sites and leave behind malware that infects innocent visitors. And some websites simply aren't as benign as they seem. In fact, according to Internet security firm Sophos (www .sophos.com), more than 83% of websites that host malware are considered "trusted" by their visitors.

Private browsing hides my tracks. Most popular Internet browsers (including Chrome, Firefox, and Internet Explorer) have private browsing options that typically prevent your computer from retaining cookies or keeping a history of the websites you view. This is a handy way to hide your browsing history from others when you use a public computer, but it doesn't hide your actions from the ISP (Internet Service Provider) and the sites that you visit.

I don't download files, so my PC is safe from viruses. Simply visiting a website can expose your PC to malware. Websites can host viruses that slip onto an unprotected PC unseen while the user browses. If your computer has security software that actively monitors your system, the software will likely block malware and alert you to infected sites.

TROUBLESHOOTING GUIDE

Internet Connection Problems

Dropped and slow Internet connections can ruin your workday, especially if you rely on email and Web connectivity to get things done. In this article, we'll help you to troubleshoot your Internet connection problems, so you can get back on track.

⟳ Troubleshoot A Dropped Connection

Follow these steps if your connection occasionally drops out.

1. Make sure that your router is still functional. Generally, there are LEDs (light-emitting diodes) on the front of the router that indicate activity. You may also want to switch off both your router and cable/DSL (Digital Subscriber Line) modem, wait a few seconds, and then turn them both back on. This is called power cycling, because you essentially restart the devices by powering them off and back on.

2. Next, check the cable connections running from your cable/DSL modem to the router, as well as from your router to your PC. It's possible that a cable could have come loose, which is preventing the signal from reaching your local computers. You may also want to try switching out the Ethernet cable with one you know works, which will eliminate the possibility of a bad cable. Examine any cables for damage, such as cuts or kinks, that could cause the dropped connection.

3. By this time, some of the computers on your network should be able to connect to the Internet. If one PC is having problems, you can use Windows Network Diagnostics to fix the issue. You'll know a PC is having trouble connecting to the Internet when a red X icon appears over the network connection icon
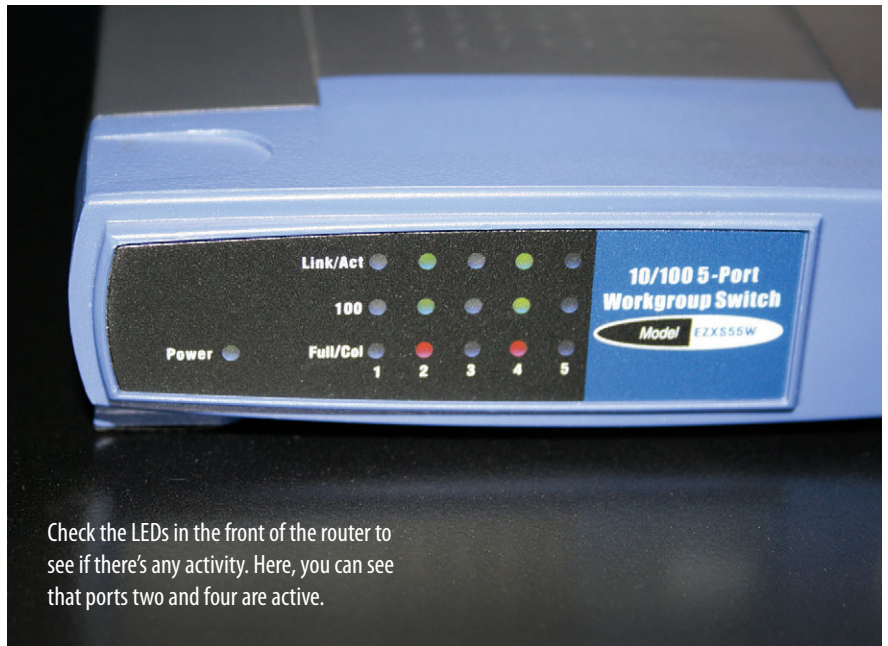
Check the LEDs in the front of the router to see if there's any activity. Here, you can see that ports two and four are active.
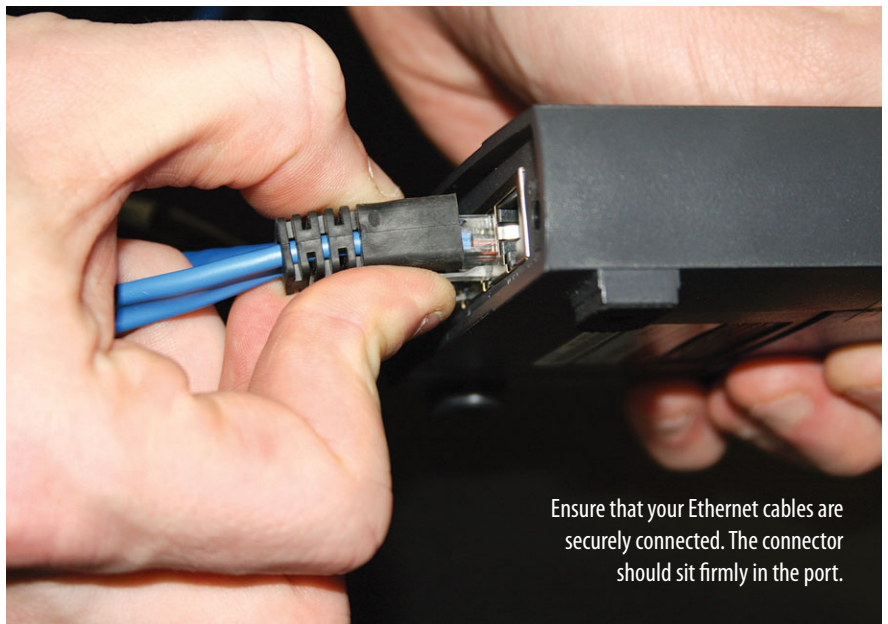
Ensure that your Ethernet cables are securely connected. The connector should sit firmly in the port.

in the System Tray. You may also see a yellow triangle with an exclamation mark in the center, which indicates that you're connected to the netwo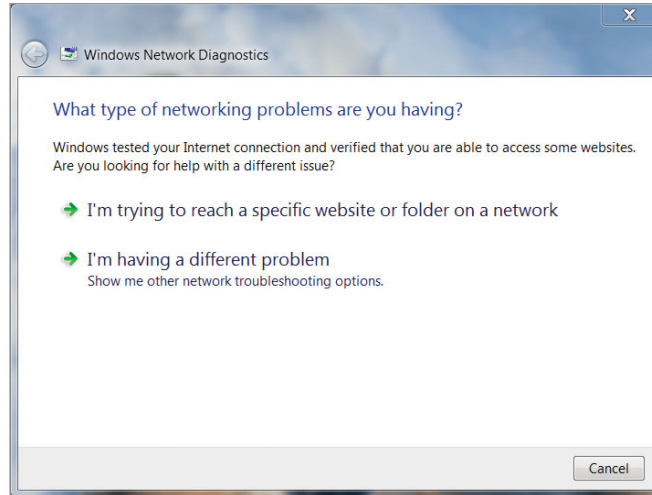rk but without access to the Internet. To run Windows Network Diagnostics in Windows 7, right-click the network connection icon and select Troubleshoot Problems. Windows immediately begins to apply fixes, such as renewing your IP (Internet Protocol) address and resetting your PC's network adapter, to try and solve the problem.

4. If the computer connects to the Internet via Wi-Fi, it's possible that the wireless router isn't capable of sending a reliable signal to the PC's location. Try moving the computer and router closer together to see if the signal is stronger with less

What type of networking problems are you having?

Windows tested your Internet connection and verified that you are able to access some websites. Are you looking for help with a different issue?

→ I'm trying to reach a specific website or folder on a network

→ I'm having a different problem
   Show me other network troubleshooting options.

Windows Network Diagnostics can help fix connection issues that may have been caused by your PC.

distance. It's also possible that some material or hardware in the room is causing interference with the wireless signal, so you may be forced to move the computer into a different room. You'll want to try the same technique if you're experiencing a slow Internet connection.
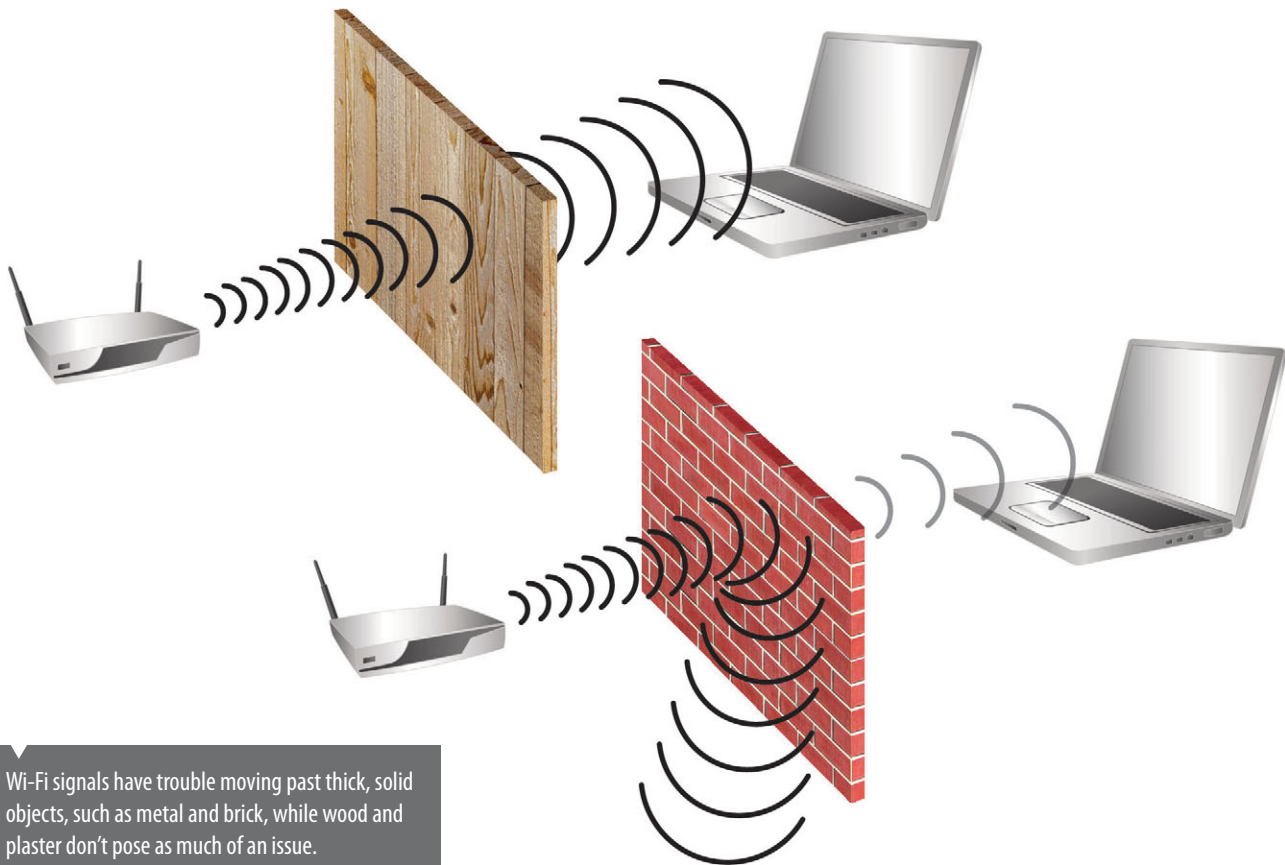
Wi-Fi signals have trouble moving past thick, solid objects, such as metal and brick, while wood and plaster don't pose as much of an issue.

➲ Troubleshoot A Slow Connection

Try out these troubleshooting techniques if your connection seems slow.

1. Similar to a dropped connection, the best way to start troubleshooting a slow connection is to power cycle your cable/DSL modem and router.

2. Next, you can test your connection using an online broadband speed test. The online test will indicate the current speed of your broadband network, and you can run it multiple times to see if the bandwidth changes over the course of the day. Most online speed tests display both your upload and download speeds. If the speeds are lower than what you expect, call your ISP (Internet service provider) about what it can do to fix the problem.

3. If you have multiple people sharing the Internet connection, it's possible that there may not be enough bandwidth to go around. For example, let's say that your office utilizes cloud computing for your CRM (customer relationship management), file backup, and email. If every worker is utilizing these Web-based services at the same time, in addition to typical work-based Web browsing, the amount of bandwidth provided by the ISP could be too little for what you need. Other commonly used bandwidth-hungry applications include VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) telephony and videoconferencing software. If you feel that your bandwidth is too slow for your business needs, talk with your ISP about the available options and which ones best suit your business uses.

4. Viruses and spyware are another common cause of Internet slowdowns. Viruses often try to spread by sending copies of themselves through email, which can take up both your bandwidth and computing power of your PC. With spyware, the malicious programs can monitor your Web browsing habits (and sometimes your key strokes) and report what it finds to the cybercriminal. To prevent viruses and spyware from monopolizing your In-ternet connection, make sure the computers on your network are actively running up-to-date Internet security suites.

5. If bandwidth and viruses aren't an issue, the connection may seem slow due to your PC's hardware. For instance, does the Web only appear slow on an aging computer, while the newer office PCs have no problem loading websites? Generally, hardware requirements for Web applications are fairly modest, such as a 1GHz processor and 256MB of memory, so if your computer doesn't meet those specifications, then it's likely the computer is old enough that it's time for an upgrade. You can see the speed of your processor and amount of memory in Win7 by clicking the Start button, right-clicking Computer, and selecting Properties.

Final Thoughts

Although this is not an exhaustive set of troubleshooting tips, following our steps will take care of the most likely causes of network drops and slowdowns. If the problems continue, we suggest that you contact your ISP for help. ▌
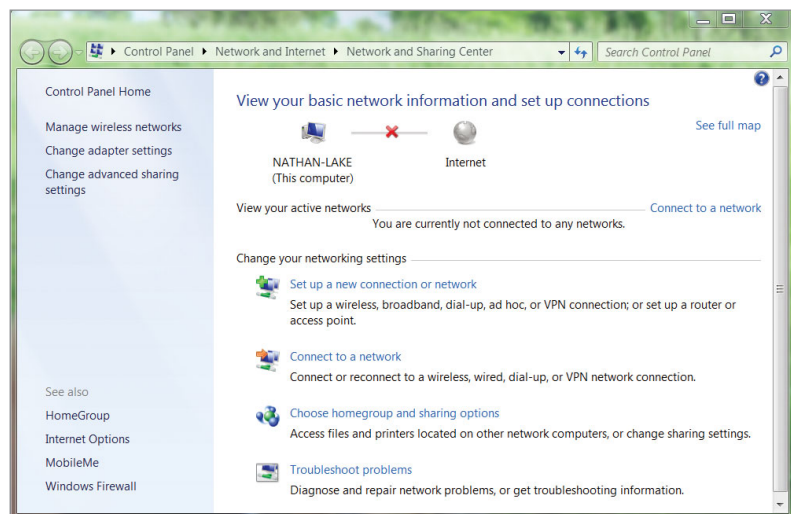
Look in the Network And Sharing Center to see if there are any problems with your connection.
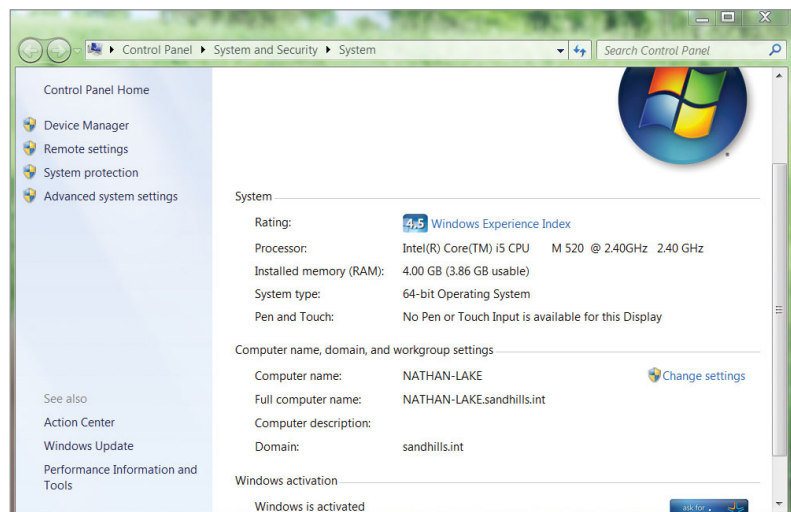
Make sure your computer is fast enough to handle the tasks you need to perform.

The Tech Info You Need, In Plain English

You don't need to be an IT guru to buy and maintain computers and gadgets for your home or small office. *Smart Computing* keeps you up-to-date with plain-English articles that explain new technology and define technical terms. Each issue includes news, tutorials, and step-by-step troubleshooting guides.

More than a typical magazine, *Smart Computing* is a reference tool. Benefit from the years of tech support advice archived on our Web site as well as access to our Digital Editions from any Internet-connected PC.

Smart Computing **DICTIONARY**

Silicon Valley has long been notorious for churning out jargon along with its electronics, and it isn't showing any signs of slowing. With the rise of each new trend, more tech terms find their way into our day-to-day vocabulary. Right now, social media is the chief jargon offender. Tomorrow—who knows? One thing is for certain: *Smart Computing*'s dictionary has plain-English definitions that will keep you up to speed.

Courtesy of Apple

iCloud Web interface.

iCloud • iCloud (www.icloud.com) is the online service that hosts data for Apple users. You can use iCloud to back up your Apple devices, and you can also use it to keep them in sync: iCloud can sync your calendars on your Apple devices, for example, so that a calendar entry you make on your phone appears in the calendars of your other Apple products. iCloud can also sync email and contacts and iWork documents, among other information. Another important iCloud feature is Find My iPhone, which can locate your iOS devices (if Find My iPhone/iPad is enabled on the device) and display the location on a map. That's handy when you have misplaced your device or believe that it's been stolen.

EPUB • A standard of the IDPF (International Digital Publishing Forum; idpf.org), EPUB (electronic publication) is an ebook format that supports reflowable text. The significance of reflowable text is that an EPUB file can be opened on any supported e-reader, big or small, and the text will reflow to best fit the screen. Some other document formats do not have this flexibility, which can make for difficult reading on small devices.

HID (Human Interface Device) • Human Interface Devices allow people to interact with a computer. For example, headsets, keyboards, and mice are HIDs. The USB HID standard lets manufacturers create USB-compliant peripherals. You may also see Bluetooth devices referred to as HIDs.

powerline network • Powerline network equipment uses the power lines in your home or office to transfer data. A typical powerline network setup includes two or more adapters. One adapter plugs into a power outlet near your router and attaches to the router via an Ethernet cord. The other adapters plug into outlets in the rooms to which you want to provide network access. Those adapters can be connected (with Ethernet cables) directly to your computers or to wireless points. Powerline network equipment has improved considerably in recent years and is a strong alternative (or complement to) a wireless network.

QR code • Quick-response codes, commonly referred to as "QR codes" or "QR tags," are square, two-dimensional cousins of the single-dimensional barcode. A typical QR code reader app will use your camera's phone to scan a QR code and then display the information hidden in the code. Many QR codes are designed to open a link in your smartphone's browser.

Thunderbolt • Thunderbolt is a new interface from Intel that transfers significant data (including audio and video) and power through a single cable. It can be used to transfer data at high speed or to connect a high-resolution monitor or HDTV to your computer. Apple, in collaboration with Intel, launched Thunderbolt with its MacBook Pro line in 2011. The port is small (smaller than a USB port) and is usually marked by a thunderbolt icon.

SMS • If you have ever sent a text message with your cell phone, you are familiar with SMS (Short Message Service). SMS messages are text messages, which carry a maximum of 160 characters. SMS is widely available on cell phones, and message transmission is handled by cell phone carriers, which often charge for SMS separately from an account's typical data plan.

ebook • An ebook is a digital book. It is a file that is readable by ebook reader software on a computer or a mobile devices such as an e-reader, smartphone, or tablet. Ebooks contain text, images, and (in some cases) audio and video. Ebooks are available in several file formats, some of which are designed to be read only by certain software or devices—often tied to the ebook retailer, such as Amazon or Barnes & Noble. Most e-readers also support PDF (Portable Document Format), which is a format that is known for being readable by most computers and many devices. Ebook files are small, making it easy to store many books on devices that have limited memory. Some ebook retailers store their customers' ebooks on their own servers and push the ebooks to the customers' devices (via the Internet and wireless networks) when they want to read them.

screen shot • A picture of the contents of a monitor's screen. Press the PRINT SCREEN key to take a screen shot. Next open an image-editing application (such as Microsoft Paint, which comes with Windows) and then paste the contents of the Windows clipboard onto the canvas (press CTRL-V). Your screen shot will appear.

social network • The past several years have seen an explosion in online communities known as social networks. The most popular social network is Facebook, which provides space for users to post information about themselves, as well as tools for communicating with friends, family, co-workers, and people who share interests. LinkedIn is a well-known social network for business users.

Yammer • Though Yammer (www.yammer.com) bills itself as "The Enterprise Social Network," it's also well-suited to smaller businesses. This service creates a private social network for your company, complete with worker profiles, private and public messaging, and file sharing. Employees use the service as a collaboration platform.

Mobile Edge Sumo Sleeve ($29.99; www.mobileedge.com)

sleeve • A sleeve is a protective shell for your mobile device. Slimmer than a typical laptop bag, a sleeve gives your tablet or laptop basic protection against day-to-day bumps and scratches. This sort of case is handy for users who bring a laptop from one meeting to another, as it offers protection without the bulk of a standard case.

Dictionary & Encyclopedia

To look up a computing definition, type a term and click Search.

Tweet | Search

Browse Dictionary & Encyclopedia

Can't find the term you're looking for in this month's list? Find thousands more definitions in *Smart Computing*'s dictionary at www.smartcomputing.com. To see a term appear in these pages, email editor@smartcomputing.com.

Certified Piedmontese Beef

Unlike conventional beef, Certified Piedmontese doesn't need fat to be tender. Instead, it's naturally lean, naturally tender—so you get all the taste and tenderness you love, but less of the fat you don't need.

Filet Mignon
The leanest and most tender cut of beef, the filet is often called "the king of steaks," and with good reason.
Four 8-oz: $55.95

New York Strip
A perfect balance of marbling and tenderness makes this steak widely appealing to a variety of tastes.
Four 8-oz: $39.95

Boneless Ribeye
The natural leanness of Certified Piedmontese makes this a flavorful steak with a melt-in-your-mouth tenderness, but without the guilt of a traditional ribeye.
Four 10-oz: $49.95

Sirloin Filet
You won't believe it's not tenderloin: Becauseof the extra lean and tender characteristics of Piedmontese beef, this cut closely resembles tenderloin, but at a fraction of the price.
Four 8-oz: $31.95

Cowboy Cut Ribeye
Like the boneless ribeye, a flavorful, tender steak, but with the taste accentuated by the added flavor of the bone-in.
Two 20-oz: $47.95

Brisket Flat
Great for summer barbecue or the smoker, a Certified Piedmontese brisket is also perfect for the oven or slow cooker.
One 48-oz: $37.95

Boneless Strip Loin Roast
Like the New York strip steaks that come from this roast, this cut balances marbling and tenderness, making it a guaranteed crowd-pleaser. Can also be cut into steaks of varying sizes, depending on family or guest preferences.
One 80-oz: $98.95

Standing Rib Roast
The prime rib is known for its buttery flavor and tenderness, and a Certified Piedmontese standing rib roast delivers on both counts.
One 80-oz: $93.95

Tenderloin Roast
Lean and tender, this roast is easy to prepare and will easily take on your favorite flavors and seasonings.
Two 32-oz: $111.95

Gift Box Collections

Dinner For 2 $78.95
1 ea. 14-oz/10-oz
   Boneless Ribeyes
1 ea. 12-oz/8-oz NY Strip Steaks
1 ea. 8-oz/6-oz Filet Mignon

Premium $125.95
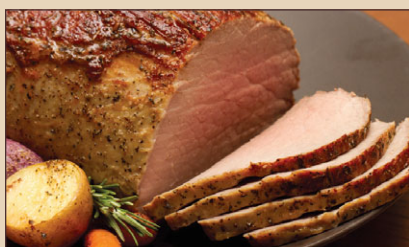3 20-oz Cowboy Cut Ribeye
4 8-oz Filet Mignon

Elite $80.95
2 10-oz Sirloin Filet
2 16-oz Bavette Steaks
2 16-oz Flank Steaks
1 16-oz 85% Lean Ground Beef

Executive $239.95
4 14-oz Boneless Ribeye
4 12-oz New York Strip Steaks
4 8-oz Sirloin Filet
1 32-oz Tenderloin Roast

Eye of Round Roast
Flavorful and normally cut thin, an eye of round roast is a good value and is excellent braised or prepared in the slow cooker
One 64-oz: $49.95

Sirloin Roast
Lean and tender, the sirloin roast, like the tenderloin, takes on flavors extremely well and can feed a large group at a reasonable cost.
One 32-oz: $31.95

Beef Kabobs
Lean and juicy, these are guaranteed to be the most tender and tastiest kabobs you've ever eaten.
Three 16-oz: $21.95

Skirt Steaks
The flavorful Certified Piedmontese skirt steak is perfect for fajitas, stir-fry, and more. Also great grilled or barbecued, especially in a tangy marinade.
Three 16-oz: $35.95

Bavette Steak
Similar to a flank steak, the lesser-known bavette is a great value, and a Piedmontese bavette is so tender that it's suitable for a variety of preparations.
Two 16-oz: $26.95

Tenderloin Tips
Think of these as bite-sized filet mignons: Juicy, flavorful, and buttery tender. Goes well with anything, but especially with pasta.
Three 16-oz: $51.95

Flank Steak
The long and flat flank steak is great for ethnic dishes; unlike some conventional flank steaks, a Piedmontese flank steak is tender enough to prepare using a variety of cooking methods.
Three 16-oz: $44.95

Stew Meat
Certified Piedmontese stew meat is all natural and makes for a rich and hearty addition to any stew or soup. The perfect meal for warming up those cold winter nights.
Three 16-oz servings: $21.95

85% Lean Ground
The wonderful taste and succulent texture of all-natural Piedmontese ground beef, ground to 85% lean to create a consistently rich, meaty flavor. Perfect for grilling or broiling.
Three 16-oz: $18.95

For more details and ordering information, go to www.piedmontese.com.

Certified Piedmontese Beef

Delicious Nutrition, Now Available Online

Certified Piedmontese beef tastes great: lean and tender, juicy and delicious. But there's more to it than just tasting good. Certified Piedmontese is also low in fat, low in cholesterol, and low in calories. At the same time, it's protein-rich and high in omega fatty acids—the kind that your body needs in order to stay strong and healthy. With Certified Piedmontese, you get all the taste and tenderness without all the fat.

Nutritional Comparison

Serving Size 3.5 Ounces	Certified Piedmontese New York Strip	Traditional NY Strip (all grades)	Traditional NY Strip USDA Choice	Traditional NY Strip USDA Prime	Certified Piedmontese Eye of Round	Traditional Eye of Round	Pork (composite)	Chicken (skinless)	Turkey
Calories	160	228	232	281	106	166	211	119	120
Total Fat (g)	9.54	15.49	15.95	22.17	2.75	8.24	14.79	3.08	2.86
Saturated Fat (g)	4.22	6.251	6.435	9.08	1.11	3.245	4.9	0.79	0.95
Cholesterol (mg)	38.5	81	82	67	42	68	69	70	65
Protein (g)	18.67	20.61	20.63	19	19.81	21.49	18.22	21.39	21.77
Shear Force (kg)	2.84	5.2	Pending	Pending	3.2	4.73	N/A	N/A	N/A

Certified Piedmontese beef listed above represents current data for raw materials – Midwest Analytical Laboratory & University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Comparison Source: USDA Nutritional Database - Ranking of Beef Muscle for Tenderness Study, University of Nebraska – Warner-Bratzler Shear Force Values.

Now buy online at www.piedmontese.com.